

Tufts University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Virtual Executive Board Special Meeting
3/31/2020

Recording Secretary: Gail O'Meara

Executive Board Members Present: Linda Budd, Ken Fettig, Grace Hall (Chair), Deborah Lapidés, Fred Lafferty, Kathleen Mayzel, Rory O'Connor, Jan Perley, Bob Pride, Samuel Ruth (Director), Joyce Carpenter (guest)

Minutes of previous meeting: accepted

Director's comments and discussion of current status:

Sam Ruth in consultation with the Curriculum Committee decided to make the next Course Catalog available only online at this time.

Update on changes since the last meeting:

A month ago it became apparent that the usual way of having study groups was going to change.

2 weeks ago many of the classroom study groups were moved to an online platform. Summer groups will be online per Tufts University decision.

Future of the OLLI program going forward:

Possible longer term concerns:

1. Member health:

- Our population has more potential risks due to being older.
- There is a possibility of another cycle of the virus in the Fall.
- Health of our members is the most important consideration while maintaining an opportunity to have interpersonal stimulation.

2. Financial impact:

- Reduction of revenue will be ongoing for an indefinite time period.
- At the current time the office is financially sustainable with Sam and Kathy as staff.

3. Social component of the program:

- Members are not able to interact as they have in the past.
- Need to develop new ways to involve all members socially.
- Under consideration are recording the evening events to expand virtual attendees and create a virtual version of the Lunch and Learn program.

Positives for our program:

All 124 OLLI programs nationally are sharing the same issues. Some chose just to cancel their program for a few months. As we were in the Spring session, the programs tried to continue. The study group leaders had to change their curriculum to a new format; members had to get into the virtual zone quickly. A few of our members ran

instructional sessions on the computer for those who were using Zoom for the first time. SGLs reminded members who might have forgotten to mute their microphone or how to pose a question.

Advantages for us using this new platform:

Macro advantages:

- We are all stuck at home so we have more time slots to fill.
- This virus has made a catastrophic impact on finances; less acute for retirees.
- Our membership base could expand.
- We are all getting better with technology.

Micro Advantages:

- Tufts University and Tufts OLLI recognized the crisis sooner than many others

Going forward:

Assume we will hold virtual classes until it is safe to resume in classroom classes.

Each block will be for a month, rather than our usual 8 week format; the catalog will be available Online, registration will be online for 2 days, the first block of classes will be set up and will start in May. Some will be time specific, others will be prerecorded and available at participant's time choice.

Sam reached out to graduate students and Professors for class proposals. He and the Curriculum Committee have selected classes for May and June.

July and August will most likely use the same format if classes are held.

New SGLs could be living anywhere and still conduct a study group for the Tufts OLLI program.

There is no constraint for room availability or parking concerns.

Refund Policy:

Will be designed in collaboration with Tufts University Financial Office.

When options are determined, an e-mail will be sent to participants informing them of their options.

These may include: Using the refund as credit for a May or June course; donating the money to the program.

Going forward:

Good news is that the program will continue.

SGLs may have to provide class members with readings in advance, offer more resource guides as libraries are closed. Local libraries are sometimes able to obtain a requested book online.

A reduced fee for a May/June membership is being considered.

Tufts University is very pleased with the Tufts OLLI program's response to this crisis led by Sam, the Executive Board and the Curriculum Committee.

Special call out to Joel Couch, who spent many hours leading the technology training programs, and Linda Budd who worked with Jan Perley and members of the Membership Committee to contact members.

Next Meeting: 4/16/2020