

Tufts University  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Executive Board Meeting  
June 1, 2020

**Executive Board Members Present:** Linda Budd, Grace Hall (Chair), Merrill Hudson, Deborah Lapidés, Fred Lafferty, Kathleen Mayzel, Rory O'Connor, Kim Pratt, Jan Perley, Bob Pride, Samuel Ruth (Director), Kathy Scanlon, Mary Webb  
Guest: Joyce Carpenter

**Recording Secretary:** Gail O'Meara

**Minutes of previous meeting:** Accepted

**Director's Comments:** Sam Ruth

Annual Meeting will be held June 18, 12-2 pm

OLLI at Tufts University Program '20-'21:

Fall will be totally virtual. Spring term will be the earliest possible in person groups.

Planning:

Month by month is going well; but if this continues, the resulting increase in office work will likely mean a need for more office support. There has been little negative feedback. Will try to have longer scheduling blocks to mirror our former Fall and Spring 8 week courses, and shorter Winter and Summer blocks. This Summer is the first time study groups have been offered during the Summer.

Member Benefits:

Revenue is increasing. Discussion focused on what does the membership fee include.

The Fall "Free Thinkers" series will be the virtual format, as will Lunch and Learn for the Summer and possibly the Fall.

Could we have virtual access to the Tufts Library? Could we access to Tufts presentations at a reduced fee?

The eNews will have a calendar to show the start of each block.

Sam is conducting a survey of members about the experiences of the virtual format. Results to date have been generally positive.

**Committee Reports:**

Curriculum Committee: Bob Pride – full report at end of minutes

There is an increase in proposals from nonmembers. There are more proposals for Fall from our members.

Lunch and Learn: Deborah Lapidés – full report at end of minutes

The format for summer is a weekly virtual presentation. Almost all speakers for the Summer term are arranged, with only 2 spots to fill. The committee needs 3 additional volunteers to bring the committee to 9.

**Old Business:**

The Five Year Plan:

The Five Year Plan was reviewed at the end of its fourth year.

Grace had previewed the Five Year Plan with classifications of Done, Not Feasible, and Not Relevant for this Year.

The remaining Goals and Steps were reviewed and completed.

A Four Year Summary of the Five Year Plan will be written and published.

**New Business:**

New members will be invited to attend a virtual Welcome to New Members, including an introduction to using Zoom. Jan will work with other members to set this up.

### Pricing:

Reasonably we can offer 20 potential study groups per week and still avoid conflicts for the club meetings and other presentations. That number could increase if we offered groups later in the day. The present pricing has several different pricing structures; after discussion of the possible ways to charge for classes, the EB voted to go with the a la carte pricing, at this time.

The cost of each group will be based on the contact hours.

### **Meeting adjourned**

**Next Meeting:** July 16, 2020

All Committee meetings as well as the Executive Board meeting are open to all members with advance notice to the Director.

There will be an open comment period at the end of each meeting, time permitting.

Upcoming meeting dates:

- Curriculum Committee: To be determined
- Membership Committee: To be determined
- Executive Board: July 16, 2020, August 20, 2020
- Nominating Committee: To be determined
- Lunch & Learn: To be determined

### **Curriculum Committee report – Bob Pride**

The Curriculum Committee held its May meeting last Thursday on May 28th rather than on the 14th so as to be able to review and approve proposals for July and August. The majority of the meeting was devoted to the review of 33 proposals the majority from grad students, recent (2020) Tufts grads, Tufts undergrads and outside instructors. The approved proposals were in addition to 15 previously approved proposals for July and 1 previously approved proposal for August. These proposals should allow the program to continue offering 20 or more study groups in each of the summer months of July and August.

We also discussed several issues involved with presenting virtually study groups including perhaps expanding the Classroom Assistant role or providing member SGLs with a Zoom Co-host with demonstrated Zoom skills.

In order to continue encouraging new SGLs from our membership ranks, Joyce Carpenter will offer a Zoom seminar on “How to Become a Study Group Leader” on Wednesday June 11th. Several committee members have volunteered to staff breakout rooms to help have more meaningful discussions on study group topics, lesson planning and use of the Zoom platform. The seminar that Joyce conducted in the fall was quite successful and will show our continued commitment to peer led learning.

The committee will continue to visit as many study groups in June as possible to offer assistance to SGLs and to recruit additional SGLs for August and beyond.

### **Lunch and Learn Committee report – Deborah Lapidés**

Meeting on May 26, 2020

The Lunch and Learn Committee met for the first time this year, as the spring season of Lunch and Learn was curtailed after only three presentations in March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

We discussed the lunchtime presentation on Zoom two weeks earlier by comedian David Misch on "The Shame of Satire." All agreed it was a very good talk albeit a bit long. This was a trial balloon to gauge the reaction of Tufts Osher members to both the humorous material and the introduction of a lunchtime lecture series on Zoom. Both appeared to be a success.

Sam had 140 RSVPs for the lecture and about 100 members tuned in to the 80 minute lecture and 15 minutes of Q&A. The presenter enjoyed "seeing" his audience and admitted that this had been his largest Zoom audience so far. He is eager to do more presentations for us either as an SGL or again

as a lunchtime speaker. He was not paid for his appearance but will expect payment for any future appearances for us.

Deborah had a long chat with her L&L counterpart at Brandeis OLLI, John Rudy. They have been scheduling once per week Zoom lectures since March for their members and have met with unprecedented success. Their online lecture attendance numbers are over twice what their in person attendance was. They have scheduled one speaker per week online through January.

The L&L Committee agreed that it was time to start up L&L once again through Zoom. We further agreed to host speakers through Zoom once per week, on Wednesdays from 12:30 to 1:30, beginning in July and running through August. At the end of August, we will reassess continuing this format through the fall.

We will contact the speakers whose presentations were cancelled this spring and offer them slots to speak this summer. Other names were also added to our list of contacts. There are nine slots to fill this summer.

The committee also agreed to solicit additional members for our committee, especially in light of the potential of expanding the once per week series to run throughout the year. Deborah will write a paragraph asking for new committee members to be placed in the eNews.