

Tufts University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Executive Board Meeting
8/13/2020

Executive Board Members Present: Joyce Carpenter, Grace Hall (Chair), Merrill Hudson, Deborah Lapidés, Kathleen Mayzel, Rory O'Connor, Kim Pratt, Bob Pride, Gloria Rosensweig, Samuel Ruth (Director), Mary Webb

Call to order: 12:02 PM

Minutes of previous meeting - approved

Director's comments: Sam Ruth

There are 390 new or rejoined members so far this year up by about 60 from last year. Will there be a surge in late August after the catalog is e-mailed? Sam plans to e-mail members who have not been heard from in a while.

OLLI's nationwide are reporting decreasing numbers.

Questions were raised concerning no printed catalog and will this miss some new members. Sam has added Facebook advertising which has added 13 new members. The printed catalog has added about 20 in the past.

Tisch lectures will become available free to OLLI members.

Concern was expressed about some members not being comfortable with online classes including Brookhaven members. Kim reports that 35 participated in May and June and 24 in July. Kim and others are available to help them with Zoom.

Committee Reports:

Brookhaven: Kim Pratt

Renovations continue at Brookhaven. The assisted living facility has opened. The fitness center will open soon and outdoor performances will be tried.

Curriculum: Bob Pride – full report at end of minutes

There are 35 classes in the Fall catalog. The number of classes led by OLLI members is down.

The format of the movie classes has involved significant discussion. The movie instructors would prefer to have the class watch the movie together. This will involve projecting the movies via ZOOM with possible difficulties. Three of the movie classes will go forward via ZOOM showing and one will have the students watch it prior to the class.

There will be a meeting at the end of August and then October 1st.

Financial: Rory O'Connor

There is a financial cushion due to Summer classes which we have not had previously.

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

Lunch & Learn summer has had good attendance.

For the fall there are 19 potential speakers for the committee to contact to fill 11 slots running each Wednesday from September through November.

Some were cancelled from the spring.

There was discussion at the committee meeting concerning paid speakers. The feeling of the committee is not to have paid speakers at Lunch and Learn.

Perhaps there are Brookhaven members who would be interested in leading a Lunch and Learn. Mary will look into it.

Sam will e-mail Kim with PDF of full fall lineup of Lunch and Learn as well as the Free Thinkers to allow for print copies for Brookhaven residents.

Membership: Gloria Rosensweig

It has been a busy month for the Membership Committee.

New members who did not attend the online orientation were contacted by phone and encouraged to attend a second online orientation. There has been a good response to committee members at the online orientation.

Sam will add a question to the online registration re: whether new members would like to be called or attend an online orientation.

Perhaps a separate e-mail to remind/invite new members to online orientation.

Discussion of pricing of courses and the fact that we are no longer offering a "bulk discount" occurred. The Board has decided to leave pricing as is for now.

Two more members are needed for Membership Committee.

Member at Large: Mary Webb

OLLI continues to be a lifeline for Brookhaven.

New Business:

OLLI Scholarship Initiative (OSI)-

Joyce Carpenter and John Flynn applied for and received OSI scholarships for the fall!

Joyce will be using her scholarship to audit a philosophy course, while John will be auditing a course on Adobe Photoshop. We look forward to having both individuals "bring their knowledge back" to the OLLI by leading study groups in the future!

Timing of courses:

There was discussion concerning the timing of courses and the lack of time between classes.

Possible options included

- 1) Taking 15 minutes off of each course
- 2) Delay start of courses by 15 minutes

Bob did point out that there were breaks set into each class.

Also reserving times for meetings and clubs specifically 10 – 12 slot two days a week was proposed instead of current 12 – 2 slot.

Gloria did state that people will have to make choices with us offering so many courses.

Sam will create a Poll to obtain members opinions of the above.

Any new times will not be able to start until November.

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: August 27, 2020, October 1, 2020
- Membership Committee: To be determined
- Executive Board: September 17, 2020, October 15, 2020
- Nominating Committee: Fall 2020
- Lunch & Learn: To be determined

Next Meeting: 9/17/2020

Curriculum Committee Minutes:

Met via Zoom on Thursday July 30th.

1. As has been the case since March, the majority of the meeting was spent reviewing proposals. The committee reviewed 28 proposals of which 25 were approved for the first Fall program of the 2020-2021 academic year. This program will run from September through October. Nine other proposals had previously been approved for Fall and several other study groups that had been approved for July and August are available to round out our Fall offerings.
2. Since four of the Fall Proposals were for movie classes, the committee had an extensive discussion on how best to present and view films for movie classes. It was agreed to recommend that films be viewed prior to the class meeting on Zoom because of potential technical problems. However, subsequent communications with 3 of the 4 SGLs proposing movie classes for Fall indicated that they felt strongly about viewing films in class. These SGLs are working with Sam to test various ways of viewing films in class.
3. We had a brief discussion on the need to recruit more member SGLs for future terms. Of the 25 proposals approved for Fall, only 10 were from OLLI members. This is a continuing issue that the committee is trying to address by visiting study groups and attending new member orientations on Zoom.

4. We also had a brief discussion on when to hold Curriculum Committee meetings. We have not had a regular schedule since March and have been meeting at Noon on meeting days to avoid conflicts with scheduled classes. We will still need to be flexible in scheduling our meeting due to the need to approve study groups close to when the catalog needs to be issued. Our next meeting will be August 27th and since we will be meeting on October 1st to approve November and December study groups, we will not meet in September.

Bob Pride

Lunch and Learn Committee Minutes:

Meeting on July 30, 2020.

In Attendance: Grace Hall, Cleo D'Arcy, Steve D'Arcy, Trish Faro, Chris Tree, Judith Dortz, Renee Grabiner, Deborah Lapides.

We welcomed two new members to our committee: Renee Grabiner and Judith Dortz.

In our inaugural summer of Wednesday afternoon Lunch and Learn presentations on zoom, we have been averaging 56 attendees, with a high of 65 and a low of 42. These Lunch and Learns will run through the end of August for a total of nine presentations this summer.

We selected 19 prospective speakers to be contacted to fill 11 slots in our fall season which will run from September 9 through November 18. We will continue with one Lunch and Learn per week on Wednesdays at 12:30. We agreed to invite back all of those speakers whose presentations were scheduled to occur last spring and were cancelled when the university shut down due to the pandemic.

Sam had asked our committee to consider a number of requests he is receiving from speakers at other OLLIs who are in fact paid for their talks. Specifically he wanted to know if we would like to include any of them as part of Lunch and Learn since there are currently funds to pay them.

In general, we all felt strongly that we want to keep L&L for unpaid speakers and to introduce a few paid speakers into L&L was a very slippery slope that we are not comfortable with. They all sounded like fine speakers to us but since we are not comfortable having paid speakers at L&L, Sam was welcome to program them as Free Thinkers or to have them offer a study group or to offer additional free lectures at an alternate time for our members. We left that entirely up to Sam's discretion.

Emmy Levis has also offered a series of presentations/discussions and we discussed whether this was appropriate for L&L. Again, the committee felt that her series should be offered to our members, perhaps as a free course available to all of our members (?), but, as it is a series, it would not fit within our programmatic content as part of L&L.

We have not yet settled on a date for our next meeting to finalize our fall programming.

Submitted by Deborah Lapidès, Chair, Lunch and Learn Committee