

Tufts University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Executive Board Meeting
Minutes: 9/17/2020

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

Call to order: 12:03 PM

Recording Secretary: Gail O'Meara

Minutes of previous meeting: accepted as corrected.

Lynne Romboli attended the meeting to say good bye to the Board as the Brookhaven representative. Lynne will remain a part of Osher LLI as a member.

Director's comments: Sam Ruth

The movie study groups are an ongoing challenge. The SGLs did not feel viewing the movies outside of class time to be on par with the preCovid-19 in person viewing sessions. This feeling also was felt in the Sci-Fi movie classes.

Committee Reports:

Brookhaven: Kim Pratt

There are 76 OLLI members from Brookhaven; this is 13-14% of the total OLLI membership. 50 are participating in study groups. Many are participating in Lunch and Learn sessions and the Free Speakers presenters.

Curriculum: Bob Pride: full report at end of minutes

There are 10 proposals so far; at least 10 more are needed.

The monthly CC meeting will continue to be at noon.

Tech issues remain. Will try to have a tech partner for member SGLs that need that support to do a Zoom class. 4-5 volunteers should be sufficient to meet these needs.

SGL feedback sessions are being planned; there will 2-3 sessions, with smaller breakout groups, each having a CC member as part of the group.

Course feedback information: Sam has a spreadsheet for the courses offered, color-coded according to satisfaction of class members. There is a good distribution based on category and experience of SGLs. It is an easy to use format.

Editor: Kathleen Mayzel:

Sam and Kathleen will start working on *Spotlight* soon.

Financial: Rory O'Connor:

September/October income is down by 30% compared to last year's figures. The new income from July and August sessions will provide a cushion. November and December income should help. Membership is up 11% over last year, and costs remain low, despite having hired someone to work on the Facebook site.

Lunch and Learn: Deborah Lapidés

There have been 2 Fall term speakers, with 9 more to go. Attendance has been 102 and 72. There is a balance between younger speakers and more experienced speakers. There will be no L&L in December; the speakers will resume in January. The speaker determines how the presentation will take place on Zoom; screen sharing will be controlled by the host of the session.

Membership: Gloria Rosensweig

Last meeting was August 20; the next is October 1.

A letter was sent out to former members with information about upcoming Lunch and Learn speakers and the Free Thinkers series. About 500 were sent out. Some of the information was redundant in light of Sam's sending out a letter as well.

Gloria attended the new members' orientation session. The orientation letter had information about this scheduled meeting, but many new members missed the invitation and how to connect information. There were 18 attendees; will try a separate invitation to new members next time, sending out an Evite a week in advance.

There are 40-50 new members who are out of state. Question is how did they find our program. About half saw our Facebook ad; others used a Google search. Some had attended other OLLI programs; others had a connection to Tufts University.

The Free Thinkers presentation is available via a virtual format after the live presentation.

Member at Large: Mary Webb

Ten years ago Mary had her first OLLI class on Proust. Mary made a connection to another member in that class and "the rest is history!"

New Business:

- Best ways for members to store Zoom links? (Gloria)
Easiest way is to store the links in a designated folder.
Make a note if it is recurring.
Zoom Link for _____ in Subject line.
- Zoom changes: Starting September you need a passcode to enter the waiting room. Ours is FALL2020 unless otherwise noted. The host can autofill the passcode.
There is a question on the proposal form asking if the future SGL is comfortable leading a Zoom class. Would you like some assistance?
FAQ section has information about Zoom link access.
- Enhancing diversity (Sam)
We are not a diverse organization. Rocco DiRicco, Tufts University community liaison, provided 4-5 possible contacts. There was a brief discussion as to how we might get started.

Meeting ended: 2:00PM

Next Meeting: 10/15/2020

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: October 1, 2020, December 3, 2020
- Membership Committee: October 1, 2020
- Executive Board: October 15, 2020, November 19, 2020

- Nominating Committee: Fall 2020
- Lunch & Learn: November

Curriculum Committee Report:

The Curriculum Committee met last on August 27th. We welcomed a new member to the committee: Elise Tamplin. Elise is an active member taking study groups, a member of the History Club, and a reliable study group leader.

1. At the August meeting we agreed to next meet on October 1st to review and approve study groups for the November and December late Fall term.
2. We also discussed the pros and cons of our current meeting time of noon to 2PM. A subsequent survey completed by the office of all the various committee members and EDventure participants seem to indicate that the 12 noon time slot was preferred.
3. In a discussion about adding to Classroom Assistant Responsibilities and How to Recruit More Member SGLs, it was proposed that we create a separate position of Technology Partner. This position would be in addition to the Classroom Assistant and would be provided to our member SGLs that are reluctant to take on the challenge of using Zoom. The Technology Partner could help the SGL navigate Zoom, solve technology problems, monitor the waiting room, chat or hand raise functions of Zoom. Sam has already solicited some volunteers from our membership for this program.
4. We discussed the need to have SGL Feedback Sessions for our June, July and August SGLs. It was proposed to schedule separate sessions since we have so many SGLs for each month and getting valuable discussions is difficult in a Zoom environment with too many participants in one session. We didn't schedule the sessions and will do so next month.
5. We discussed the need to continue visiting study groups to insure quality and to recruit new SGLs. This summer it was difficult to visit as many groups have we had done in the past.
6. We need to finalize a meeting schedule for the rest of 2020 and early 2021 as we have not had a consistent monthly meeting date since March.

Bob Pride