

Tufts University  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Executive Board Meeting  
Minutes: 11/19/2020

**Executive Board Members Present:** Linda Budd, Joyce Carpenter, Ken Fettig, Grace Hall (Chair), Deborah Lapides, Kathleen Mayzel, Bob Pride, Gloria Rosensweig, Samuel Ruth (Director), Mary Webb.

Guest: Kathy Scanlon

**Recording Secretary:** Gail O'Meara

**Minutes of previous meeting:** accepted as corrected.

**Director's comments:** Sam Ruth

Two long time members, Sue Trousil and Jim O'Neil passed away recently. They both were active members for many years.

Membership is now up to 691 members. Enrollment in study groups has also increased. There have been 20 Lunch and Learn sessions, 6 Free Thinkers, and 100 study groups since July.

Winter and Spring terms have 17 proposals to date; 3 are from members, 2 of whom are new SGLs, 1 is experienced.

There are 6 OLLI at Night events, 2 performances and 4 speakers. There have been 12 of these evening events to date.

Joyce is leading an outreach to increase diversity in OLLI. She has had contact with the leaders of the West Medford Community Center.

Tufts faculty and staff are looking into STEM offerings. STEM is the integration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. One possibility is a course using an electronic LEGO kit.

**Committee Reports:**

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

Committee has been busy with Zoom sessions.

The zoom session on “How to Become an SGL” had 11 attendees, 1 of whom had teaching experience. SGL feedback session was virtual.

Scheduling CC members to visit classes is using a Google Doc for the sign up; an invitation to attend will then be sent out.

Movie classes are still under discussion. The issue revolves around accessing the movies to be discussed and how to structure the discussion portion.

Suggestion made to change class time to be 8:05 → 9:55, for example. This would provide a 10-minute break between sessions to facilitate logging into a new Zoom session.

To attract new members could have an Open House with Sam posting an invitation to potential members to visit a class session, lunch and learn, or an evening performance.

**Editor:** Kathleen Mayzel

“Spotlight” will be published in a booklet format Online. There is a Box set up to receive submissions. A graduate student will design the Online format. There are 5 submissions to date.

**Financial:**

An individual will be appointed to this position in 2021.

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

There were 11 presentations on zoom from September 9 through November 18. Attendance has ranged from 60 to 112. This is an easy place to increase attendance. Lunch and Learn will resume on January 13 and run to March 31 for the Winter term.

20 prospective speakers will be contacted for the 11 spring slots.

The authors who give talks no longer have a way to sell their books, in-person, after the presentation. Deborah has a complete document listing all of the information for each speaker to which a link can be added, which will allow members to view and purchase the speakers' book prior to the presentation. Sam asked the committee to brainstorm some alternative celebration or occasion to socialize in lieu of the traditional End of Term Luncheon. One suggestion was to have a short 5 minute dramatized reading or scene, either live or prerecorded, a 10 minute break out session facilitated by an L&L member with 10-12 members in each group. Then back together for another reading; there could be 3 separate readings with discussion.

Discussion included ability to change members in a specific group each time breakout groups met. Each Performing Arts department could have an evening dedicated to their discipline.

**Membership:** Gloria Rosensweig- full report at end of minutes

A busy new member session occurred as there were 40 new members in attendance. 4 committee members will fine-tune the "lesson plan" used for the new member session. Emphasize links to zoom sessions when making the in person calls. Edit the new member letter to include and highlight the links to past performances.

Next committee meeting in January and next new member session is in January.

**Member at Large:** Linda Budd

It is hard to "connect" in prior way. Need to focus on recruiting more members willing to be SGLs. Has managed to interest 2-3 more people in joining.

**Member at Large:** Mary Webb

Impressed with the effort that goes into bringing members to the virtual format.

**Old Business:**

Lack of response to the talks is challenging to gauge how well received each talk was. A survey might help.

Member directory needs additional information. Encourage people to provide biographical information and also include personal interests and any topic they might like to share. Have this information available to the Curriculum Committee. Word this biographical section as expected but not required. Reorder the choice order on the online intake form. Emphasize that this directory is only available online to registered members. Kathy will send the request for interest areas to members. The biography columns will not be available to members at this time.

**New Business:**

20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration

Objective for doing this: Why? Fun, informational, and involve all. Acknowledge this milestone with comments from members.

Time could be noontime, cocktail time, or evening.

Ken Fettig shared some history. The program evolved from the continuing education program at Tufts. They received a \$20,000 grant but had to include all Alumni.

Now that the program is virtual, more distant Alumni can participate.

### Suggestions:

Have a slide show of events from previous years with a musical background.

Have short interviews with the old-timers in the program.

Have a trivia night. Have more than 1 event at different times.

Smaller subgroups will need to take the lead on this; maybe a small ad hoc committee.

Mention this in the first week of December newsletter. Include some starting points and include requests for workers. The EB will not assume this undertaking.

There is a need for 1 person to oversee the EDventure groups. This will insure that there is a host to start each zoom meeting. Have 1 account for all clubs to share and have a preset link.

Adjourned: 1:55 pm

Next Meeting: 12/17/2020

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: January 2021
- Membership Committee: January 7, 2021
- Executive Board: December 17, 2020, January 21, 2021
- Lunch & Learn: February 2021
- Nominating Committee – TBD

### **Membership Committee report:**

MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 2020

#### NOTES

In attendance: Irene Hannigan, Jean Keefe, Laura Ramsay, Joan Stein, Kathy Scanlon, Gloria Rosensweig, Judy Katz as a potential new member

Discussion occurred on both the new member orientations and the personal calls made to new members, which are felt to be valuable. Some ideas were generated for possibly “fine tuning” the new member orientations and Sam has been invited to our next meeting to discuss these. Approximately 40 new members are going to be called for the next orientation.

Discussion occurred on the various ways that members try to access the Lunch and Learn recordings. Gloria will contact Sam re: streamlining this process.

The topics of possible term ending and 20th anniversary celebrations were discussed briefly.

Next new member orientation – Mon. Jan. 4, 2021 @ 12

Next membership meeting – Thur. Jan. 7, 2021 @ 12

Submitted by Gloria Rosensweig, Chairman

### **Lunch and Learn Committee report:**

Meeting on November 6, 2020

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

The fall season of Lunch and Learn includes 11 presentations on zoom, running from September 9th through November 18th. Attendance numbers have been quite good, with a high of 112 and a low of 60, with an average of 83 members in attendance (with two talks left to go).

We had agreed last summer to take the month of December off for Lunch and Learn talks and then resume in January. Lunch and Learn will begin again on Wednesday, January 13th (the winter term begins January 11th) and will run for 11 consecutive weeks through March 31st.

We selected 20 prospective speakers to be contacted to fill 11 slots in our spring schedule. We will continue with one Lunch and Learn per week on Wednesdays at 12:30.

Sam had asked our committee to brainstorm some alternative celebration or occasion to socialize for our members in lieu of the traditional End of Term Luncheon.

Here's what we came up with: how about having a performance by someone in the Tufts Music Department (either live/socially distanced or a recorded performance). This can also be true for performances by the Drama Department at Tufts. The thought was that performers are looking for an audience and we are looking for content.

We further envisioned that after a short dramatized reading or scene of five minutes in length, we would have 10 minute breakout sessions for about 10 - 12 OLLI members to discuss what we've just seen. This is a way to socialize. Then we would all return for another 5 minute performance (music or dance or another drama scene) and then again, another 10 minute breakout session. Perhaps there could be three or four of these. There would be a L&L committee member in each breakout session to act as a facilitator and to ensure that no one person hogged the conversation and kept things moving. We felt that the money that we're saving from spending catering money for the luncheons could be put toward paying the student (and/or staff) performers.

Submitted by Deborah Lapides, Chair, Lunch and Learn Committee

### **Curriculum Committee report:**

The Curriculum Committee met twice in October and the second meeting was on October 29th. Our next meeting will be on December 3rd to review and approve study groups for the Winter Term.

At the October 29th meeting we discussed the following items:

1. We made final preparations for a virtual version of "How to become a study group leader" to be held on November 12th. This is designed to create more member SGLs and was primarily designed for members with no SGL experience. Ten members have signed up and 3 or 4 CC members will lead breakout rooms. (11 people attended on November 12th including 1 grad student and 1 experienced SGL. The other nine members were at various stages of study group development).
2. We discussed feedback from recent SGLs concerning their experiences and recommendations. Most stated that it was a good experience and would do another if they were still available.
3. We discussed various ways to recognize the continued excellence of our SGLs, particularly those who have contributed to our success in the current virtual environment. Sam suggested encouraging members to recognize outstanding SGLs with a new "OLLI Notes of Appreciation", he implemented in the weekly email.
4. We are establishing a google document to assist with scheduling CC visits to online classes to try to increase the number of study groups visited.
5. We concluded with a discussion what the committee needs to do to be more effective in our online environment. The framework was "Are we doing things right and are we doing the right things?" For a start, we decided to suggest some Zoom Etiquette Suggestions for SGLs (and for study group members). This general topic will be especially relevant when we transition back to in person and or hybrid learning environment.
6. We concluded with a discussion about movie classes in the Zoom environment. These classes were among our most popular and populated study groups. They can tackle many various subjects and can lead to interesting discussions. Study group leaders could have enjoyable classes with varying degrees of effort on their part. We continue to explore ways of offering these classes.

Bob Pride

