

Tufts University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Executive Board Meeting
02/18/2021

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

Recording Secretary: Kathy Scanlon

Minutes of previous meeting: Accepted

Director's Comments: Sam Ruth

869 members currently, 12% higher than this time last year. Other OLLI's are down between 30-50%. We are one of two in NE that are up. There are many factors including broadband which is not as good as we have here that are impacting other parts of the country.

March-April registration is at 395 people. The demand is as high as Jan/Feb but total registration may be lower than Jan/Feb because we have a few classes with significant waiting lists.

Looks like we will cancel 3 classes due to low enrollment.

Survey to members regarding post pandemic return and in person classes vs. virtual classes were very interesting. The results showed 2/3 of the responses said virtual, either all virtual or mostly virtual. The other 1/3 were for in person.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum: Bob Pride – full report at end of minutes

Every other month the CC's meeting is spent reviewing the classes.

There were 47 class submissions, 33% from members

We are interested in seeing how the classes at different times will populate. This session some classes are now being offered on Sat and Sunday.

Editor: Kathleen Mayzel

“Spotlight” is published, and it came out great! It is very pandemic focused.

Lunch and Learn: Deborah Lapidés

Attendance has been off the charts! Lowest attendance was 115 and highest was 161! Deborah attributes this to more members and better marketing. The document with the detailed description of each talk is great. Announcing the next speaker, a week in advance and sending out the day of announcement all contribute to the high numbers we are seeing participate.

The committee is talking about future scheduling and if they should schedule in July and August.

Membership: Gloria Rosensweig

The committee did not meet this month. New member orientation is set for March 9th.

The committee is going to look at other Osher programs and see what their membership fee structures are. Continual programming is getting quite expensive for some members. They will also look at other non-OLLI competition: Harvard program, One Day University.

One possible option is a Gold Membership, where there is a cap for class fees for the most active members. Another option is to increase the Membership fee and lower the class fees. They will look into this and take a first step.

Member at Large: Linda Budd

Nice to have program as rich as it is. We are keeping a lot more people satisfied and engaged. She feels there is some community feel is lacking in the larger classes on Zoom.

Member at Large: Mary Webb

Some SGL's know how to handle a big Zoom class. A big class is better with a technical person who is watching the whole class and calling on one person at a time.

Nominating: Kathleen Mayzel- full report at end of minutes

There are several positions to fill this coming June. The committee is looking for assistance in finding qualified individuals in this Zoom environment.

Linda Budd is stepping down as Member at Large, which leaves one position to fill on the board.

The Nominating Committee members are Kathleen Mayzel, Jim D'Agostino, Pat Howkinson and Ellen Kitzis.

Pat Howkinson will stand for another term of two years. Ellen is not going to re-up for another term.

Kathleen and Jim are at mid-terms.

The Brookhaven position on the Nominating Committee is also available for an interested person.

Mary will reach out to people from Brookhaven in the Wellesley building to see if she can find anyone that is interested in serving on the Nominating Committee.

Kathy will get Kathleen a list of member SGL's that are not currently on a committee. Members of the Nominating Committee also may be able to identify members in their classes who might be interested in these positions.

New Business:

Osher foundation capacity building grant. Sam spoke about how we have been invited to apply for this grant which could be up to \$25,000 for 5 yrs. Most of the \$\$ are unrestricted, could be used to defray marketing costs. To apply for it you need to put together a detailed plan on how you are going to increase membership and increase donations from members. One thought was to create a "Student OLLI Scholarship Fellowship Program" pitch trying to generate a total of \$20,000 in donations.

The idea of the Fellowship program was well received and would make a strong connection with students. Virtual classes make it easier to stay connected to student SGL's who may not live in the Tufts area after graduation or in the summers.

One suggestion was to make clear to the members where the money is going.

The grant would be used for marketing and student workers.

Adjourned: 1:37 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 18th

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: March 25, 2021
- Membership Committee: TBD
- Executive Board: March 18, 2021, April 15, 2021
- Lunch & Learn: March 19, 2021
- Nominating Committee: TBD

The Curriculum Committee Report: Bob Pride

The Curriculum Committee met twice in January 2021. The second meeting was devoted almost exclusively to reviewing and approving proposals for the March-April (Spring) term. A total of 47 proposals were reviewed with two SGLs proposing 3 one session study group each. The March-April catalog included a total of 44 study groups including 19 1-4 session study groups and 25 5-10 session study groups. In 2020, we had 42 study groups in the Spring term. Of the 47 proposals submitted, about a third came from our members and only 17% came from SGLs with no direct connection to Tufts as either: faculty, staff, alumni, undergrad or grad students.

At our next meeting on February 25th, we will continue discussions on how to attract SGLs and members from underrepresented groups, how to add more innovative study groups and how to prepare for post-pandemic operations.

Bob Pride, Chair Curriculum Committee

Nominating Committee Report: Kathleen Mayzel

February 9, 2021 meeting

Positions up for nomination June 2021:

Member at Large: Linda Budd

Nominating Committee: Ellen Kitzis, Pat Howkinson, one empty position for Brookhaven member.

Linda has decided not to serve another term. We appreciate all that she has done.

Pat will serve another term. Ellen will not serve another term. She will dedicate her time to the Curriculum Committee.

Therefore we have a Member at Large position that needs to be filled as well as 2 positions on the Nominating Committee. The "Brookhaven" position of the Nominating Committee has been empty for several years. I do not think that we will be able to fill it during the pandemic.

We are also working on updating the Skills and Responsibilities document.

Kathleen Mayzel, Chair Nominating Committee