

Tufts University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Executive Board Meeting
Minutes: 01/21/2021

Executive Board Members Present: Linda Budd, Joyce Carpenter, Ken Fettig, 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

We have seen a surge in new members, with 136 joining in the last few months; this is 2x as many as last year.

We had 760 registrations for Jan & Feb study groups, with 35 classes running (2 cancelled with low enrollment and one due to an SGL family challenge).

First OLLI at Night was successful, with 100 devices signing on; there were many couples on the devices.

We will be partnering with Tisch College again and they will be announcing their speaker series soon. We are experiencing a logistical problem with our e-lists. There have been several bounces with Yahoo, Comcast and AOL. Sam is working on correcting the problem or we may need to discontinue the use of e-lists.

Committee Reports:

Brookhaven: Kim Pratt

Kim could not attend but reported that vaccines are starting to get distributed at Brookhaven.

Curriculum: Bob Pride – full report at end of minutes

The Curriculum Committee met on Jan 7th as a cleanup meeting, since the last few meetings have mostly been spent reviewing and approving class proposals.

We already have some proposals submitted for March/April with one from Terry Carter from the West Medford Community Center. It will be about the West Medford African American Project.

We began talking about planning for the post pandemic world.

Editor: Kathleen Mayzel

“Spotlight” is almost finished! A link was sent to all the people who submitted entries. There were a few additional edits. Our plan is to get it out next week to all the members.

Financial:

Sam presented a financial statement for FY21 as of 1/19/2021; so far revenue is very strong. At this rate we are estimating a surplus of between \$135,000 and \$150,000.

There was talk about some of the money being used to update classroom spaces for our return. And also, possibly creating some hybrid classes in Stoneham and at Brookhaven. Sam will look into both ideas to see if they are feasible.

Rory was the financial advisor and he stepped down because there was not a defined role. At this point it was decided to hold the position vacant. Sam will present the board with quarterly reports and

financial statements of what we have in other accounts (i.e. gift account). Possibly in the future we will combine this role with a fundraising role.

Lunch and Learn: Deborah Lapides

Two weeks into the Winter L&L Series and we have fantastic numbers. Over 100 attendees each week. Remote L&L's are a great convenience to our members.

All L&L slots through the end of March are full.

Committee will meet at the end of February to discuss and plan April and May.

Maggie Huff-Rousselle is a new committee member.

There was some talk about in the future having Brookhaven broadcast the L&L and OLLI at Night in the new theater, once gathering can happen.

There was a suggestion to get a Poet to come to L&L.

Membership: Gloria Rosensweig – full report at end of minutes

With no December New Member Orientation, the January Orientation was like the perfect storm, with 90 new members joining the program, we had 60 people attend! It was great!

The membership committee worked with Sam to create a chart of **Osher Offerings** explaining “What it is”, “When it Happens” and “What it Cost”. This chart will be helpful at Orientation and will be included in the new member email.

At this point we have 24 new members for the February Orientation. We will try to use breakout rooms so people can chat on a smaller scale.

At this rate with so much interest in the program we may reach 1,000 members. With over 1,000 members we may be eligible for a capacity building grant from the Osher Foundation. Sam's feeling is adding additional people at this time is not that hard, especially knowing we may shed some next year.

Member at Large: Linda Budd

Members in class seem to be happy. A friend has joined, and she is 92 and loving it!

She was surprised to see so many cameras off in her class.

Member at Large: Mary Webb

Zoom is a godsend for shut-ins. She agrees the classes are not the same as in -person but OLLI is providing service to people at Brookhaven.

New Business:

Moving forward –

thoughts for next year our top two priorities will be

-Trying to re-adopt what was

-Offer enough virtual activities to make the program attractive for people interested in either in-person or virtual study groups.

For the Lunch and Learn Lectures we can make this work both in person and virtually. We could leave it up to the speaker where they would like to talk from.

We could live stream talks in Alumni Lounge and similarly at Brookhaven and possibly in Stoneham.

L&L would follow the regular calendar with on campus classes being held on Mon and Fri and L&L on those days as well.

Clubs: We will hold on this topic for now

OLLI at Night: this should stay virtual. We are able to get more speakers for less money and our attendance numbers are better than in person due to factors like driving at night, or weather conditions.

Classes: Pre-Covid we provided classes for 24 weeks, 8 weeks in the fall and spring, 4 weeks winter and 2 weeks summer, moving forward no reason to do less, maybe more.

One new model would be 2 twelve-week sessions starting in Sept and Feb. (this would be a combination of virtual and in -person) Monday and Friday would be in person class on the Medford campus. L&L would happen during those 24 weeks.

Then all virtual sessions would be held in the winter (Dec/Jan) and summer (May-Aug.)

Some issues discussed would be to make sure we have enough offerings, so we do not lose new members. To begin with virtual and in-person classes would not be combined. Mon & Fri would be in person day and schedule the other days as virtual.

5 Year Plan

We are growing and changing so fast, a long-range plan would be too difficult to implement right now. Grace suggested putting this on hold for now and reconsidering it in one year.

Adjourned: 1:41 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021

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: February 2021
- Membership Committee: February 4, 2021
- Executive Board, February 18, 2021, March 18, 2021
- Lunch & Learn: February 2021
- Nominating Committee – February 9, 2021

Curriculum Committee Report: Bob Pride

The Curriculum Committee met on December 3rd. This was our first meeting since meeting twice in October. While we did not meet in November, we plan to meet twice again in January so we can deal with normal agenda items (January 7th) and then review and approve study groups for March and April (January 28th).

The Committee reviewed and approved 41 proposals which included 14 from current OLLI members. Five of the proposals were from members who had not previously submitted proposals. Thirty eight study groups will run now and three will run in a future term. Last winter we approved 23 study groups to run in the Winter term which ran for four weeks from mid-January to mid-February.

Zoom etiquette was briefly discussed. This will be on the agenda again in January. In one class two people were sharing a screen when only one member was registered. This was referred to the office. The proposal deadline for March and April study groups is January 24th.

Membership Committee Report: Gloria Rosensweig

January 7, 2021 meeting

In attendance: Irene Hannigan, Jean Keefe, Laura Ramsay, Joan Stein, Kathy Scanlon, Gloria Rosensweig, Judy Katz, Sam Ruth

The committee worked with Sam to develop a chart of program components to be used at new member orientation. Committee members believe this chart will be quite helpful, not only at the orientations, but in other ways also.

Discussion also occurred on various aspects of the last intake process culminating in the January 4 new member orientation which a record number of new members attended. Of special focus was the issue

of the use of break out groups, and, if they will continue to be used, suggestions were made as to how to make these breakout sessions as useful as possible.

Committee members are also interested in the potential size the program may grow to, with pros and cons being mentioned of extensive program growth.

A review was conducted as to the key elements we need to focus on in our calls to new members.

Next new member orientation - Tuesday Feb. 9, 2021 @ 12
Next membership meeting - Thur. Feb 4,, 2021 @ 12