

Tufts University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Executive Board Meeting
Minutes: 03/18/2021

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

Recording Secretary: Kathy Scanlon

Minutes of previous meeting: Accepted with changes

Director's comments: Sam Ruth

March courses are running.

We have been virtual for one year now and everything is running much smoother.

Yesterday members of the Memoir Writing group had a memorial service for member Dan Sullivan who passed away in February. It was a very touching service. It showed us the value of the sense of community for our Osher program.

We are getting ready for the May/June term. In the past we have pro-rated the membership fee to \$15. We will continue to do that again this year.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum: Bob Pride

We have been working on different ways to find people to be SGLs. Some members of the Curriculum Committee made a video "How to Become an SGL"; it has been distributed to the membership via the newsletter. Joyce also ran a workshop "How to Become an SGL".

We are working on having an SGL Member feedback session on Zoom. We think this will give SGL's better communication between each other and offer tips and advice on teaching a class. We had done this in the past but not since we went virtual.

May/June courses we have received 17 proposals so far. The deadline is Sunday, Mar 21st. So, we are in need of more!

Book club and History Club have been running on Zoom for 12 months now. We are getting great attendance at both. The Book Club has 25 people each month. This could be a challenge when we go back to in-person to find a room large enough to fit everyone. We may think about doing these groups as a hybrid model. There is a real feel of community in these groups.

Joyce spoke about the "How to Become an SGL Workshop" she ran last week.

People who are at different stages of the process get connected to a CC member who they work with. There was a lot of interest and we have already seen one proposal submitted from the workshop.

Lunch and Learn: Deborah Lapidès

Everything is going great! This spring the speakers have all been good and the attendance has been great. Yesterday the attendance was at low number with 80 people signing on. This could signal people are getting back to more "normal" lives. It will be interesting to see how the attendance numbers look moving forward.

Attendance is not the only measure of success. Engagement of the participants as evidenced by questions at the end or the presentation is certainly valued as a measurement of success.

Yesterday, time ran out before all of the questions from the audience could be answered, indicating how involved our members were in the presentation.

All speakers have been lined up through the end of June.

Membership: Gloria Rosensweig

Gloria addressed the membership committee to see if they wanted to look at the fee schedule at other Osher programs. They decided to table this until we have the next big shift in the program.

Her committee was concerned that there is no financial advisor on the Executive Board. And that our “proceeds” are not really our money and get returned to the University.

Sam spoke to this issue saying we would need to re-negotiate this issue with the University.

We will put this topic on as New Business for the next meeting.

Member at Large: Linda Budd

Looking at everything all together people are working really hard to make this go, and it is going very well. The groundwork is laid for an expanded program. Of the 20 people in her class she only knows 2 of them, it is a very interesting mix of people.

Member at Large: Mary Webb

Mary popped in quickly at the beginning of the meeting, she could not stay but said things were getting more back to normal at Brookhaven since everyone is vaccinated.

Nominating: Kathleen Mayzel

She has received a few suggestions from members for nominations for the open positions and has a list of SGL member who are not on committees. Kathleen will develop an email to reach out to people to see if they are interested.

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting,

New Business:

Plan for Moving back to In -Person Scheduling

Continue to schedule each 2-month period. Schedule would look something like

July-Aug: Virtual

Sept-Oct: Both in-person and virtual

Nov-Dec: Both in-person and virtual

Jan-Feb: Virtual

Mar-April: Both in-person and virtual

May-June: Both in-person and virtual

Bob said CC has been doing this scheduling for the past year and it is working. We are also hoping to continue in-person classes at both Brookhaven and Stoneham.

Lunch and Learn would be offered on Mon & Friday for the months of Sept-Oct-Nov and March-April-May. For a total of 48 talks for L&L Committee to schedule. The L&L talks would be in-person and we would have a virtual option as well. Sam could schedule some other “OLLI at Night” speakers in the off season, these speakers could also take place during the day. Deborah will have her committee think about these options.

It looks like Tufts will be going back to full in-person schedule for September although we are not sure when they will welcome us back to campus.

Adjourned: 1:35 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 15th

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: April 1, 2021
- Executive Board: April 15, 2021, May 20, 2021
- Lunch & Learn: TBD
- Nominating Committee: TBD

Membership Committee Report: Gloria Rosensweig

March 4, 2021

In attendance: Irene Hannigan, Laura Ramsay, Joan Stein, Gloria Rosensweig, Judy Katz, Sam Ruth
The committee discussed with Sam the possibility of doing a project that would review our cost structure vs. that of other Osher programs. The committee decided to table this project until after the program completes its transition to a post Covid normal.

Discussion also occurred on the most recent orientations and calls being made to new members. Both procedures seem to be going smoothly.

Using the minutes from the Executive Board Meeting of 1/21/21, the committee was updated on program information, especially that of “moving forward”. The committee members were quite disturbed that there is currently no Financial Advisor on the Executive Board and no immediate plans to find one. They wanted me to express this concern to the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

Next new member orientation – to be determined

Next membership meeting – Thur. April 1, 2021 @12

Curriculum Committee Report : Bob Pride

The Curriculum Committee met on Thursday February 25th.

As we did not have proposals to review, we spent the entire meeting discussion other issues.

1. We discussed making a video for members answering frequently asked questions about being a study group member. We also discussed reminding our members that Osher is focused on peer led learning.
 2. We discussed a recommendation email from another OLLI regarding one of their members willing to lead study groups for other OLLIs.
 3. We continued discussing how to appeal to minorities in our area by including subjects such as the West Medford study group being offered in April.
 4. We began to think about our Post Pandemic operations including semester length and mix of in person and virtual offerings.
 5. We discussed efforts to get the most out of the Zoom platform such as the possibility of having outside experts speak to classes. Often our grad student SGLs have been leading classes from locations outside our area.
 6. We have discontinued SGL feedback sessions in favor of online survey to each SGL after the end of the term. This eliminates the discussions that previously occurred at the in person session and the chance for SGLs to share their experiences. We will plan a Zoom session for all recent member SGLs to allow for the sharing of their experiences.
 7. We scheduled a New SGL Workshop for members for Thursday March 11th. Several committee members agreed to assist Joyce by manning breakout rooms.
- Our next meeting will be Thursday March 25th to review and approve proposals for May and June sessions.

Lunch and Learn Committee Report: Deborah Lapidés

Meeting on February 26, 2021

In Attendance: Grace Hall, Trish Faro, Chris Tree, Judith Dortz, Renee Grabiner, Maggie Huff-Rousselle, Deborah Lapidés.

Deborah welcomed new committee member, Maggie Huff-Rousselle.

The winter season of Lunch and Learn (January and February) has been going gangbusters, shattering prior winter (aka Lunch and Learn Lite) attendance records. No L&L this winter has had fewer than 115 members present and a few have been as high as 150 or 160 members, which are all-time record breakers.

The month of March is already scheduled with 5 speakers and two speakers are already scheduled for April. Our spring Lunch and Learn schedule will run for 13 weeks on each Wednesday in April, May and June.

We selected 17 prospective speakers to be contacted to fill 11 empty slots in our spring schedule. Another committee meeting was set for Friday, March 19th if needed.