

Tufts University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Executive Board Meeting
Minutes: December 16, 2021

Executive Board Members Present: Diane Boettcher, Joyce Callaghan, Joyce Carpenter, Trish Faro, Grace Hall (Chair), Ellen Kitzis, Deborah Lapides, Kathleen Mayzel, Karin McCarthy, Kim Pratt, Ann Renauer, Gloria Rosensweig, Mary Webb.

Recording Secretary: Kathy Scanlon

Special Guest: Dean Joe Auner

Minutes of November meeting: accepted.

Remarks from Dean Joe Auner: Return to campus

Thanks to the executive board members for allowing him to be here and thanks to Karin for all the work she is doing to make the transition back to in-person activities.

We will pilot a program to start in the spring to bring back two classes and one in-person larger event in May or June.

To do this, we will need to follow the universities COVID protocols: proof of vaccination, masks and no food or drink indoors.

We are concerned with variants, and it will be monitored day to day to determine the safety of the return to campus.

All the information on COVID policy and what is required (how to upload your vaccination card and where testing sites will be located on the day of class) will be clearly communicated to members in the registration information.

Associate Director Report: Karin McCarthy

Spring session will run from March 21st - May 20th an 8-week session.

Summer session will run from June 6th to the 17th

We have created one proposal submission form for both sessions. Will keep it open so SGL's can submit a proposal whenever it is convenient for them.

20th Anniversary Celebration: Survey will be sent out beginning of January to see if there is enough interest from our members to attend an in-person event like this.

Thank you to Ellen and the CC for the SGL feedback sessions that were held recently. There were lots of great feedback and lots to think about as we offer this dual program.

Committee Reports:

Brookhaven: Kim Pratt

Brookhaven would like to get back to in-person programming but right now they are being very careful and holding back on mixing events with people from outside of Brookhaven.

Curriculum: Ellen Kitzis – full report at end of minutes

SGL Feedback Session was very helpful. (summary at end of minutes) Members, who teach for us, teach several classes. Zoom has a lot of benefits. Some would like a little more 1/1 Zoom training.

Spring session will run for 8 weeks now, change of dates. Moving forward we will go back to a shorter summer and winter session.

New feedback forms were used this session it will provide more information to the SGL.

Financial Advisor: Ann Renauer

She is learning about the OLLI financials and the Tufts budgeting process and will have a full report at the meeting in January.

Lunch and Learn: Deborah Lapidés

Introduced Trish Faro as the new chair of L&L. Deborah will co-chair with Trish until the spring.

Fall session concluded with an average attendance of 76 and a total attendance of 9,555

Winter L&L Schedule is all set to go with 8 speakers lined up.

L&L will continue to be held on zoom through the spring.

We are still looking for 2 or 3 new members to join this committee.

Membership: Gloria Rosensweig – full report at end of minutes

Membership committee met earlier this month and discussed getting back on campus and reducing the cost of classes for members.

Member at Large: Mary Webb

Mary appreciates Tufts thoughtful and careful planning on the return. There have never been a lot of Brookhaven members that take in-person classes on the Tufts campus, typically only 5 members, so the return will not impact too many Brookhaven residents at this time.

Member at Large: Diane Boettcher

Thanks for everyone who is working hard to have the program continue.

Old Business:

20th Anniversary Celebration

There was a discussion on what each person envisions this event to look like.

Here is a summary of the ideas:

Outdoors is good.

Tent would be great (which likely means in the latter part of May).

This is a celebration. Include food and drink (alcoholic beverages?).

High top tables encourage mixing. But we will also need some chairs.

Music provided by James or members

Badges- large. Include name and other conversation starters such as town, #of classes attended, or....

Preferably on a weekday to minimize conflict with graduations and weddings

Invite former directors, issue special invitation to former chairs.

Have posters of our history, of directors and chairs, of interesting statistics

Possible video or slide show up on a screen.

Daytime is better than evening for our population.

No speeches or other activities that interfere with people mingling and talking.

Consider streaming for those unable to attend.

Adjourned: 1:49

Next Meeting: Thursday, Jan. 20th at 12:15

All Committee meetings as well as the Executive Board meeting are open to all members with advance notice to the Associate Director.

There will be an open comment period at the end of each meeting, time permitting. Upcoming meeting dates:

- Curriculum Committee: January 13, 2022
- Membership Committee: January 6, 2022
- Executive Board: January 20, 2022. February 17, 2022
- Lunch & Learn: TBD
- Nominating Committee: Spring 2022

Curriculum Committee Report- December 2021

Chair Ellen Kitzis

Continuing Issues

1. Post-Pandemic Plans for Study Groups

- Member survey suggests most members are still reluctant to return to campus; a smaller percentage are willing to come back with Covid restrictions
- Current plan is to hold all classes on Zoom except for two classes that will be conducted on campus
- CC recommended selecting instructors and classes in advance of registration process e.g., Short Story Class and Great Decisions that ran two groups per session due to high demand.
- Delay start until March/April session until March 27th to allow for extra preparation; let members know in the next Newsletter.
- Proposals due on 1/14

2. Virtual Feedback Session for Member and non-Member SGLs

- Conducted two groups with over thirty attendees
- Overall positive feedback (see attached summary)

3. Updated member end of session assessment form

- Launched with the November/December study groups

New Business

4. Planning for 2022 schedule:

- No final decisions reached
- Most likely shorter Summer and Winter sessions; Spring and Fall options still open

5. Copyrighted materials

- No real guidance from Tufts
- Recommendation is to point SGLs to general Tufts and YouTube usage guidelines e.g., can't copy a whole book, provide links instead of pdf files.

6. Access to Tufts online databases: currently not available remotely, previously used only from Campus Library

- Associate Director Looking into getting access for members

Summary: SGL Feedback Sessions December 8, 9, 2021

Background

Held two sessions

Approximately thirty-five participants plus CC members

Most had taught multiple times

Mix: primarily members and outside instructors, very few Grad students

Summary Polling Data (A few did not answer)

1.How do you describe your relationship to OLLI?		
Member	21	66%
Grad	2	6%
Outside	8	25%
Faculty	1	3%
Total	32	100%
2.Have you taught before?		
First time	8	25%
a few	10	31%
many	14	44%
	32	100%
3.How many study groups have you led?		
1	9	29%
2	1	3%
3	9	29%
4 or more	12	39%
	31	100%

4.Are you planning to offer another class?		
yes	24	75%
maybe	7	22%
no	1	3%
	32	100%
5.Would your teaching preference be...		
zoom	12	39%
In person when avail	9	29%
either	10	32%
	31	100%

Why Teach

- Do something you did not do in your career – try something new – meet new people
- Rich conversations – creativity – exchange ideas – more substantive than social experience
- Way to pick a topic you love and learn a lot about it – doing research and learning from others
- Classes were not available –drawn back to Tufts from other OLLIs – shift from teaching to leading and guiding
- Prep time – maybe 4 to 1
- Learn a lot from people in the classes
- Teacher – wanted to get back into teaching – topic that people do not know a lot about
- Tufts encourages and supports new ideas
- Participants’ questions and answers are most interesting and informative

Comparison with Harvard Program and others

- Found working with Tufts easier
- Simpler proposal process
- Staff very responsive
- Level of students undifferentiated

Zoom Experience

- Overall positive, found challenges with Film Classes
- Learning to lead in a Zoom world
- In general, more training; more technical help and specialized training one on one would be helpful.
- Zoom has worked well with writing classes
- Limiting class sizes to less than 15 or 20 for discussion groups

Proposal Process Ideas

- Be able to get a copy of submitted materials
- Make it continuous, hard to match dates
- Do a “Meet the Instructor” promo on Zoom prior to registration
- Provide short video by SGL for each course
- Have a Zoom meeting with SGLs that people can ask them questions about their classes – open house
- Prepare a resource page for SGLs leave on the website; also provide links to resource centers for Learning and Teaching

Concerns About Returning to Campus

- Covid protocols; also, air quality
- Certain types of classes better done in person – target them to be on campus Wants to get back – movies and music – better to do it in person
- Hearing problems for some instructors; understanding people who are masked – facial expressions important

Zoom Benefits

- Can see people better on Zoom – harder for people to dominate – limit to twenty people so you can see them Develop an intimacy – people not afraid to speak and share
- Movie classes – show on Zoom?
- Depends on nature of the class – flexibility
- We have participants and SGLs from all over
- Zoom – use second monitor to see participants
- Some classes work better on Zoom than in a classroom
- Do not ask SGLs to prepare too many different things

1.How do you describe your relationship to OLLI?				4.Are you planning to offer another class?		
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Grad	2	6%		maybe	7	22%
Outside	8	25%		no	1	3%
Faculty	1	3%				
Total	32	100%			32	100%
2.Have you taught before?				5.Would your teaching preference be...		

First time	8	25%		zoom	12	39%
a few	10	31%		In person when avail	9	29%
many	14	44%		either	10	32%
	32	100%			31	100%
3.How many study groups have you led?						
1	9	29%				
2	1	3%				
3	9	29%				
4 or more	12	39%				
	31	100%				

Membership Committee Report - December 2, 2021

Submitted by Gloria Rosensweig, Chairman

In attendance: Irene Hannigan, Laura Ramsay, Joan Stein, Jean Keefe, Gloria Rosensweig; Karin McCarthy, Associate Director

During the time Karin was able to stay at the meeting, discussion largely centered on the protocols that will need to be in place for the on campus activities and study groups that will begin in March. It is unclear whether it is the responsibility University College to put these protocols in place, or whether it will be the responsibility of OLLI staff. Beginning discussion on the time on campus study groups would be scheduled, as well as the coordination of those study groups with Lunch and Learn, also occurred.

The committee then reflected on the new member orientation that occurred November 29, as well as how the calls to new members went. In addition to getting some study groups back on campus and lowering costs for members taking study groups, the committee felt that it was also important to determine when members wanted classes (i.e. time slots) and try to provide them if possible.

Next membership meeting is January 6, 2022 at 12:15.