

Tufts University
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Executive Board Meeting
Minutes: November 18, 2021

Executive Board Members Present: Diane Boettcher, Joyce Callaghan, Joyce Carpenter, Ken Fettig, Grace Hall (Chair), Ellen Kitzis, Deborah Lapidès, Kathleen Mayzel, Kim Pratt, Ann Renauer, Gloria Rosensweig, Mary Webb.

Recording Secretary: Kathy Scanlon

Minutes of previous meeting: accepted.

Chair Remarks: Grace Hall

Welcome to Ann Renauer our new financial advisor.

There will be no financial report this month or next. Beginning January 2022 Ann will present the financial report.

Moving forward please hold any comments or questions until the end of each committee report. Any significant issues can be brought up during the Old/New Business.

Note that responding to an elist communication goes to everyone and should not be used on a regular basis.

Office Report: Kathy Scanlon

Kathy read a report prepared by Karin in her absence.

Membership as of November: 643

Appx 30 study groups will run for next session. Registration is scheduled for Dec 6.

Lunch and Learn Chair, Deb Lapidès, long time member and dedicated chair of this committee, is stepping down. Trish Faro, another member of the L&L has volunteered to become Chair. Deb has agreed to mentor her for the first few months. This is a big job and Deb has done an excellent job. She leaves big shoes to fill. A formal acknowledgement of her efforts and the news about the change in chair will be made in the newsletter after Thanksgiving. Deb did provide us with the list of L and L's thru the end of the winter session.

Very productive conversations happening around a return to some on campus activities. Likely will start some in person activity with spring session in April. While all of the details need to be fleshed out, it does appear that any OLLI member taking a class on campus will need to comply with Tufts COVID protocols as they apply to students. This would mean weekly testing at Tufts testing location, daily attestations via cell phone app or online survey, mask wearing at all times indoors, proof of vaccination (and likely also of booster), no food in the classroom. I will have a more detailed update in December as I hope to have a preliminary plan by then. Should be noted that with survey results indicating that nearly 59% of respondents prefer mostly or all virtual events, (and another 18% happy with either mode) we will not be doing away with virtual platform. But we will seek to provide a mix of options and be flexible.

FY 2021 - Rebekah Plotkin is working on a new report that OLLI can use going forward for financial review. I expect to have that for the December Executive Committee meeting. [Note after meeting: Postponed to January financial discussion.]

Committee Reports:

Brookhaven: Kim Pratt

Brookhaven is running a booster Clinic for all residents and staff.

Kim will have a conversation with the CEO re: April return to a few classes. Will have to look into what would be the testing requirements for outside people and if Brookhaven would need to adhere to Tufts requirements.

Curriculum: Ellen Kitzis

There will be two SGL Feedback sessions the first week of December. All study group leaders from this past year will be invited.

Plans in the works to go back to the previous scheduling for classes with 2 long sessions (8wk), 1 four-week winter session and one two-week summer session. We have found running 6 two-month sessions is putting stress on volunteers and staff. We will go back to the traditional schedule.

Editor: Kathleen Mayzel

“Spotlight” - Kathleen will talk to Karin about the next publication. Members have requested that we go back to hard copy format.

Financial Advisor: Ann Renaur

Delighted to join the Board. She recently retired and joined OLLI. She found the new member orientation very welcoming.

Lunch and Learn: Deborah Lapidés

Deborah will be stepping down as Chair of L&L but will stay on the committee. Trish Faro has stepped up as Chair. They will co-chair through January.

Committee is still looking for two more people. They will reach out to some members to see if they are interested in joining this committee.

Membership: Gloria Rosensweig – full report at end of minutes

Next Membership Meeting on December 2nd.

New Member Orientation will be held on Nov. 29th.

The feeling from some members is that we should lower the cost of courses to increase membership and to make it more affordable for current members.

Member at Large: Mary Webb

If Brookhaven opens for classes, she would like all people to be vaccinated to participate there. They are being very careful there and she wants that to continue.

Member at Large: Diane Boettcher

Members she has talked to are pleased with the offerings and feel like we are doing a great job.

Member at Large: Joyce Callaghan

Joyce chatted with people in her two study groups. In the first one all 5 wanted to keep it virtual as they were all calling in from 5 different states

The next class she had 50/50 enthusiasm to come back to campus.

Old Business:

Budget

There will be a discussion on the budget in January and we will talk about any issues including if there will be a surplus this year. Some members are interested in spending money on the program before it rolls over to the university. There were discussions on what ways we could make the program better with additional money: general outreach to community centers, lower class cost, multiple class discounts, adding another staff member, and allocating money for the 20th anniversary celebration.

New Business:

20th Anniversary Celebration

This was postponed from 2020. This would be to celebrate our 20th anniversary and all the good work people have done over the pandemic. We will look into options and cost and discuss in December. Talk about having this in the spring and outside.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Dec. 16th

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: TBD
- Membership Committee: December 4, 2021
- Executive Board: December 16, 2021, January 20, 2022
- Lunch & Learn: TBD
- Nominating Committee: Spring 2022

Membership Committee Report - November 4, 2021

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

During the time Karin was able to stay at the meeting, introductions were made and discussion occurred on several pending issues.

The committee then reflected on the status of the recommendations the committee made to the Executive Board in its meeting minutes from September 2021. The committee further identified its two top current priorities to improve the experience of members. They are resuming classes/activities on campus starting in March, and decreasing the costs for classes if the program is running a surplus.

Names for new member calls will be distributed a week before then next new member orientation scheduled for November 29 at noon.

Next membership meeting – December 2, 2021

Submitted by Gloria Rosensweig, Chairman