

**OLLI at Northwestern
Advisory Council Meeting in Evanston
May 10, 2019**

Advisory Council Attending:

Gloria Gleave, Naomi Fisher, Jerry Bernstein, David Anderson, Ron Denham, Carol Dietz, Nancy Worthington, Gail Bartlett, Susan Kay, Laura Mongello, Carole Bass, John Drodow, Evelyn Shaevel, Joe Hinkel, Candice Dalrymple, James Roselle, Peg Romm, Martha Bills, Marcia Lazar, Phyllis Handelman

Director: Kirsty Montgomery

Advisory Council not in Attendance:

Gordon Mallett, Belinda Silber, Tom Buckley, Willie Shaw, Dan Burns, Ann Rusnak

Handout:

OLLI Evanston Academic Enrichment Committee 2018-19 Emerging Scholars Series prepared and distributed by Candice Dalrymple

Everyone joined in a celebratory toast to Kirsty on her completing all the requirements for her Ph.D. in history from the University of Chicago. Her Ph.D. degree will be conferred at the upcoming graduation ceremony at the University of Chicago. In Gloria's toast, she emphasized Kirsty's impressive achievement of earning her Ph.D. while balancing her family and OLLI responsibilities. Kirsty distributed copies of the abstract of her thesis: *"Floating Bridges," "Knotty Points," and "Boroughmonger Tools": Malthus, Extra-Parliamentary Politics, and the Debates on Emigration, 1798-1834.*

Gloria called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. The minutes of the Advisory Committee meeting of April 12, 2019 were approved.

Director's Report

The annual "Changing of the Guard" event for this year will be planned in conjunction with Bernard Osher's visit to NU to receive an honorary degree at graduation on June 21, 2019. There will be a breakfast for current and newly elected AC members on June 20th at Wieboldt Hall. Bernard Osher will be in Wieboldt Hall and will hopefully briefly attend the breakfast. In addition, the meeting of the AC on the second or third Friday in September will be a time for the new AC to get acquainted with one another.

A day-long fall retreat for the combined Evanston and Chicago Membership Enrichment Committees will be devoted to the discussion of the committees' goals and plans moving forward, especially to clarify (1) which events are cross-campus events, in distinction to individual campus events, and (2) under whose responsibility the cross-campus events should be organized.

Filling in a time-line for the events being planned by the Membership Enrichment Committees. Academic Enrichment Committees and the Diversity and Inclusion

Committees is underway. Double-booking events on the same campus should be avoided, if possible. Lee Ann is putting together the calendar and already, the calendar is filling up for the fall. Ideally, for maximum publicity, events should be promoted in the study group catalog. Carol Dietz requested that priority in scheduling be given to keeping the Wednesday and Thursday of Idea Week on the Chicago campus free of other events.

The new OLLI Help Desk has been launched and coordinators have started to use it, although some guidance is needed about what constitutes appropriate requests. The format, which restricts people to shorter messages than email messages, has been helpful to the administration as the concise communications are more effective than previous messages.

Beginning in the fall, the new policy of giving noontime guest speakers a \$150 check as an honorarium will go into effect. With regard to the proposed policy of paying a guest speaker in a study group a \$50 honorarium, several possible complications were raised. A proposal will be developed for consideration at a future time. Starting in the spring 2020, the study group proposal form will include a request to list guest speakers for the study group.

Later in the meeting, Kirsty announced that the annual OLLIs-Go-to-Ravinia event is scheduled for August 7th. The OLLI programs at Bradley University and UW Milwaukee will participate with the NU OLLI program.

Committee Week May 13-16

David reported that the Chicago Study Week will be held Monday-Thursday from 11:45 am – 1:15 pm. The current low-key plan is in response to the difficulty of getting people to engage with committee members last year. There will be a table on the 5th floor staffed by David and a few other members to answer questions people have about committee responsibilities. A flyer with information on all the committees will be distributed.

On the Evanston campus, Gloria has organized a schedule for representatives of each committee to be available from 11:40 am - noon and from 12:50 pm -1:15 pm on Monday-Thursday, to speak to interested members about the role of his/her committee. Gloria cautioned that committee representatives should be clear about expectations for committee members.

Nominating Committees

Naomi, Chair of the Evanston Nominating Committee, presented the Evanston slate:

Campus VC:	Harold Primack
Academic Enrichment VC:	Randall Smith
Coordinator Development VC:	Don DeRoche
Development Chair:	Susan Kay
Diversity and Inclusion VC:	Constance Karduck
Membership Enrichment VC:	John Howard
Study Group Chair:	John Drodow
Study Group VC:	Brenda Russell

Naomi thanked the Evanston Nominating Committee for their efforts.

David presented the Chicago slate on behalf of Rosemary O'Shea, Chair of the Chicago Nominating Committee:

Campus VC:	Dennis Carlin
Academic Enrichment VC:	Sid Mitchell
Coordinator Development VC:	Michael Dolesh
Development Chair:	Joe Hinkel
Diversity and Inclusion VC:	Martha Bills
Membership Enrichment VC:	Eileen Conaghan
Study Group VC:	Rosemary O'Shea

David reported that Gail Bartlett would stay on the Membership Enrichment Committee and move up from Vice Chair to Chair in the 2019-2020 academic year. David thanked the Chicago Nominating Committee for their efforts.

The slates for both campuses will be published in the next OLLI newsletter. Kirsty, thanking both committees, noted that this was the first-time in her tenure at OLLI that both committees had presented full slates.

Standing Committee Reports

Academic Enrichment Committees

Candice reported on the Emerging Scholars Series that was inaugurated this year as a forum for NU graduate students in the History Department to speak to OLLI members. Details of the program are summarized on Candice's handout. Candice advised each of the graduate student speakers in advance of their presentations, and Kirsty sent letters of appreciation and commendation to each speaker and his/her faculty advisor following each talk. Each speaker was given a \$150 honorarium. All talks to date were very well received by OLLI members, and the speakers were impressed with the attentiveness and responsiveness of the OLLI members: the program was deemed a success both by OLLI and the speakers. Reaching out to other departments will be considered for next year. The AEC will assess the program at their June meeting. Kirsty thanked Candice and Jim for their efforts in organizing and implementing this initiative.

Laura highlighted the upcoming speaker on the Chicago campus, Chris Jones, the theater critic for the *Chicago Tribune*. Evelyn was instrumental in arranging for Jones's engagement at OLLI. About 80 members have registered to date. At Jones's request, arrangements have been made with the Book Stall of Winnetka to handle book sales of Jones's book in connection with the talk. (It was noted that for Evanston talks Bookends and Beginnings in Evanston could handle book sales.) The AC agreed that it was a good idea to let future speakers know that book sales are an option as part of his/her speaking engagement at OLLI.

Coordinator Development Committees

John reported that four members signed up for the first-time Evanston workshop on how to develop a study group proposal. Two participants have submitted proposals and a third participant is planning to submit a proposal in the future. John and Peg considered the workshop to be very successful.

Phyllis reported that the committee was concerned about helping coordinators effectively handle the problem of study group members speaking too long. Recommendations include setting a rule at the beginning of the study group that people speak for no more than 2-3 minutes, and stressed that it is the coordinators' responsibility to step in when people overstep the limit. Someone suggested even using a timer, if necessary. Phyllis also reported that coordinators have asked if there is a policy about a small group class meeting, such as a group consisting of two co-coordinators and one other participant. The AC agreed that coordinators should decide for themselves whether or not to meet.

Kirsty announced that going forward new coordinators would receive a printed copy of the Coordinator Handbook, while other coordinators would receive the handbook in PDF format, together with a cover letter indicating in detail what changes have been made from the previous edition.

Not all AC members knew that there is a Canvas site for Coordinators. Kirsty will see that information about the Coordinator Canvas site is shared with all coordinators and AC members.

Development Committee

Evelyn reported that the event for lead donors was very successful. Sixty people attended the April 8th event held at the NU Law School. Steve Thaxton, Executive Director for the National Resource Center for OLLI, spoke at the event. The Development Committee will review its activities at the June meeting.

Diversity and Inclusion Committees

Carole Bass noted that the Evanston committee reviewed its year's activities at their meeting on Thursday. One initiative that is ongoing is to develop a relationship with the Foster Senior Club in the 5th Ward, which is a group of African-American retirees. Six guests from the FSC were invited to a noontime D&I talk. This practice will continue with the addition of an opportunity for OLLI members to introduce and welcome the guests. The goal is for FSC members to join OLLI. The idea of proposing a scholarship program dedicated to FSC members is being considered. The committee will promote OLLI members' attendance at the Fleetwood Jordain Center programs. Another ongoing initiative is to encourage the development of study groups on topics of particular interest to minority groups.

Martha highlighted the committee's programming strategy of pairing a field trip with a noontime speaker, which they instituted this year and will continue for next year. There will be a summer film day on life in Chicago. The committee is reviewing its past programming for Black History Month, which concentrated on connections with black churches. These events were successful "one-off" events, but did not draw in new OLLI members.

Membership Enrichment Committees

Nancy reported that the Chicago end-of-year event will be a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception immediately following the May 22nd annual meeting at 5 pm.

Gloria reported for Gordon, Chair of the Evanston MEC. The end-of-year event will be a box lunch on June 5th. The committee's goal is to enhance a sense of "neighborhood" among the Evanston members. A welcome-back event for all OLLI members is being planned for the fall. New members will be guests of OLLI for the event.

Kirsty noted that all members of OLLI are welcome to attend either, or both, the Chicago and the Evanston end-of-year events.

Study Group Committees

Ron reported that 11 proposals, including 2 proposals for virtual study groups, were submitted for the summer semester and 35 for the fall semester. Jerry, who stepped in to oversee the review process after the VC resigned, reported that the revised review process is working well. The committee is on a tight schedule to prepare the list of study groups offered for the fall semester. A complication is that 6 proposals are in need of a co-coordinator. Kirsty suggested that proposals from experienced coordinators could be presented at the annual meeting with the caveat that a second coordinator is needed. An appeal for a volunteer to be the co-coordinator can be part of the presentation. She cautioned, however, that proposals submitted by a new coordinator only should not be presented at the annual meeting, as it is possible that they will not be offered. John, the incoming Chair, reported he would like to develop a list of experienced coordinators as a resource for the committee for approaching possible second coordinators. Carol noted that the Chicago SGC has already done this and although it is not a complete solution, the list is helpful.

Carol reported that 20 proposals were submitted for the summer semester and 67 for the fall semester. The mailbox for submitting ideas for study groups is beginning to yield ideas.

There was a general discussion about virtual study groups and other experimental formats for study groups. For example, a hybrid study group, combining the traditional format and virtual platform, has been proposed by Phil Zawa for the fall. Ron emphasized that the experiment of running a virtual study group was never intended as a replacement for the traditional study group. Rather, virtual study groups can offer additional opportunities for participation in OLLI study groups, such as late-returning snowbirds being able to participate in spring study groups. Kirsty added that OLLI will look into using webcam technology for classes.

Although the work of the AC will be recognized at the June 20th breakfast, Kirsty said she would like to express her personal thanks and appreciation to the AC for their work of the past year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am