

**OLLI at Northwestern
Advisory Council Meeting in Chicago
October 12, 2018**

Advisory Council Members in Attendance: David Anderson, Gail Bartlett, Carole Bass, Jerry Bernstein, Martha Bills, Tom Buckley, Candice Dalrymple, Carol Dietz, John Drodow, Naomi Fisher, Gloria Gleave, Phyllis Handelman, Laura Mongello, Peg Romm, James Roselle, Evelyn Shaevel, Nancy Worthington, Kirsty Montgomery (Director)

Advisory Council Members Absent: Ron Denham, Dick DuFour, Joe Hinkel, Susan Kay, Marcia Lazar, Gordon Mallett, Gail Miller, Ann Rusnak, Willie Shaw, Philip Zawa.

Other Attendee(s): Roberta Cohen (Minutes)

INTRODUCTION

At 10:10, David Anderson, the Chicago Chair, welcomed Advisory Council members to the October meeting and introductions were made.

Council Members were asked to use the microphones in front of them for ease of hearing.

The minutes of the prior meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kirsty Montgomery gave an update on streaming of programs between the two campuses and reiterated her commitment to make the process work well. This is an ongoing process with uneven results to-date, as expected from the new technology. The streaming technology was installed in Evanston this past summer and in three classrooms in Chicago during the fall. Streaming the Lyric Opera program was challenging because the technology is new and blocks the ability to stream music; as a workaround for this event, music needed to be played at both campuses since it could not be streamed through the system.

As a success story, the Rick Kogan lecture was successfully streamed from Chicago to Evanston. The only problem occurred during the question/answer period. While the new technology was expected to have kinks, Kirsty is determined to keep at it and to get it right.

Kirsty reported continued progress in building connections with the rest of Northwestern University. She is working with the History Department and hopes, for example, to get History graduate students involved, perhaps in seminars, to talk about their work.

She noted that she has a few tickets for OLLI members to attend the One Book personal appearance by Margaret Atwood.

With a handout, Kirsty presented the results of her work with the Study Group Committees to formalize requirements for serving as a study group coordinator. The intent of the requirements is to insure uniformity, so that coordinators would have consistent well-qualified experience to facilitate peer-led learning evenly across all OLLI programs. Qualifications can be verified through OLLI records and a review of the proposed coordinator's application.

Kirsty proceeded to review the specific requirements. A study group for a 14-week program must have a minimum of two coordinators and a maximum of four. Exceptions will be made for shorter programs in winter and summer when one-coordinator programs will be allowed. A new coordinator must have participated in two 14-week discussion groups previously and must either attend a New Coordinator Workshop or meet with the Study Group Committee to cover the same material.

Most of the discussion focused on how to incorporate as a coordinator a person with a unique perspective or subject-matter expertise who lacks the prerequisite experience. In this conversation, this person was tagged as the 'third coordinator', and the issue was postponed for further discussion at a later time.

It was suggested that, when the announcement searching for new coordinators is posted, the coordinator requirements be listed. Proposal forms are being redone.

The Council voted approval for the coordinator requirements on the page that Kirsty distributed and agreed to defer the issue of the 'third coordinator' for a later meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Enrichment

Laura Mongello summarized upcoming Chicago Programs:

- November 7 - Wine and cheese, discussion of *The Handmaid's Tale*
- December 4 - Lynn Osmond from the Chicago Architecture Center
- March - Laura Ferrio from Ability Lab
- April - Chicago Council of Global Affairs

Candice Dalrymple outlined the Evanston programming for the year, two Leading Edge Programs in the autumn and two in the spring. The three firm commitments are:

- October 26 - Sanford Goldberg: Philosophical Questions About Fake News
- November 13 - Laurel Harbridge-Yong: Rejecting Compromise: Legislators' Fear of Primary Voters
- April 16 - Shana Bernstein: Nazi's Red-Baiting and Civil Rights: Jewish Americans as Interracial Activists in Twentieth-Century Los Angeles

Coordinator Development

The Chicago Committee is holding an autumn three-week workshop on becoming a coordinator and creating a proposal. Their flyer was distributed at the Council meeting. The Committee will

consider offering a similar program in the winter.

Similarly, the Evanston Committee plans to offer this kind of programming. In addition, they plan to create some training for coordinators as to how to set up a Canvas site, by next spring. The Committee noted past problems getting enough programs for the four-week terms, although this year's winter numbers are promising. They are thinking about ways to encourage programs for winter and summer.

Development

The two campuses are working together on the Development program. They are proud of funds raised for classroom microphones, which are making a huge difference in study groups.

The schedule for Giving Week, November 12-16, was reviewed, including two mailings and plans for members to visit Study Group classes. The Committee is also planning for the lead donor event.

Diversity and Inclusion

The Chicago Committee initiated its set of programs on October 3 with Destiny Peery from Northwestern's Law School talking about bias. On October 25, Rena McDaniel will offer a noontime LGBTQ program. Other programs in the planning stages include field trips and a Muslim speaker.

In Evanston, a Committee subgroup is working with Kirsty to increase the diversity of the OLLI member population. The Committee is planning events including a session on African-American genealogy.

Membership and Enrichment

The Holiday Event is scheduled for December 13 at the East Bank Club. A shuttle bus will be available from Evanston.

Study Group

The Chicago Committee is focusing on getting more ideas for study groups, including being on the lookout for ideas that arise in existing classes. The Committee is reviewing the recent survey to ascertain whether OLLI is meeting member demand.

The Evanston Committee, with six additional members, will be teaching OLLI members to use google docs. During Study Group Week, fewer members attended than hoped-for but the sessions did produce good ideas.

Streaming some study groups is planned for the Spring Quarter.

COLLABORATION

The Committee then met in subgroups, so that Chicago and Evanston counterparts could collaborate.

RECAP AND ADJOURNMENT

During the concluding recap session, the Development Chair added some Committee information. The Committee is focusing on the following questions: what is the Committee's role, how does the Committee work, what does members' funding fund, how does the funding fit into OLLI strategic priorities, and how can the Committee convey this information to OLLI membership.

Kirsty shared that she appreciates the improved Council format and she is grateful for the opportunity to talk things over with the Council.

A subject was raised for future discussion: a request for funding for speakers. Kirsty agreed to review this further. Currently, speakers receive an OLLI packet including an Amazon gift card.

Further suggestions included adding additional previews to OLLI members throughout the year, in order to showcase upcoming courses, committees available to join, and ideas in need of coordinators.

A final suggestion was offered, that committees do their planning for the upcoming calendar year, rather than having to scramble for programs when the school year starts in the fall.

Kirsty and Gloria Gleave will attend the annual OLLI Conference in Arizona. They will report back on ideas from other programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

UPCOMING DATES

Evanston November 30 10:00 AM

Chicago February 8 10:10 AM

Evanston March 15 10:00 AM

Chicago April 12 10:10 AM

Evanston May 10 10:00 AM