OLLI-CSUCI Steering Committee Minutes 2/7/13

Steering Committee met with a full agenda at 3:45 p.m. on Thursday February 7, 2013 in the CSUCI theme room of the Camarillo Marie Callender’s. Members present: Pat O’Neil, Diana Troik, Saul Lessler, Geri Gretan, Carol Evans and Jack Phillips, plus Program Director Nick Fuentes. Guest: Finance committee member Gary Collins. The minutes of the January meeting were reviewed and approved.

Subcommittee reports, concerns and proposals submitted for agenda:

Publicity/Outreach:

- Concern: Some members have reported they were not getting communications, and this raised questions about the member database. There have been two separate mailing lists, which may have been part of the problem. The lists are to be merged and updating of email information requested at the start of each class. Welcoming calls to new Winter session members have not been made because we didn’t have the lists.
- Report: Millie will be working with CSUCI IT staff on adding new features and new looks to the Website that she will be bringing to the Committee for review and approval in the next few weeks
- Report: Geri has another OLLI-CSUCI Newsletter in the works – a sneak peek reveals that the Dolphin in Santa hat will sport a Valentine heart this time
- Proposal: that a Free “Taste of OLLI” session be offered to the existing member who gets a new person to sign up for a regular course. Action: After some discussion as to how to implement the idea it was accepted unanimously.
- Concern: Members have expressed concerns about the bus routing in the fall. One person said that the possibility of the bus stop being too far a walk from the Library makes her defer a decision as to whether to register in the fall. Nick will continue to monitor the decision-making process and let us know if we need to take more direct action to ensure that our “less-abled” members have the access they need (and the ADA requires by law.) It was noted that Bus Passes are available that work like a debit card, saving the fumbling with change each trip.
- Concern: The Dolphin Dilemma – Grey or Silver? Work continues on developing and rolling out our new OLLI-CSUCI Logo, but Carol fears that our use of the name and image of “Silver Dolphins” may be seen as impinging on the university’s Silver Dolphin award for outstanding students. N. The originally proposed “Grey Dolphins” (reminiscent of the “Grey Panther” senior revolutionaries of yore) remains an option with minority support. Nick will pursue the matter and – assuming there is no objection – get written approval from the University president before we proceed. We will then approach the Student Life Office to have the name registered to us.
- Proposal: Order more OLLI bags. Nick reports that he does not have enough OLLI bags to cover possible new members in the Spring. One of the reasons for this was the welcome growth in registration, but was also noted that some members have been – ahem – “upgrading” their OLLI bags (an observation that spurred some quiet pushing of bags under the table…) Action: We save some money by ordering large amounts, but it was decided to do a minimal order so that we can get the new logo on a larger order later.
- Concern: Keeping the library quiet. We tend to forget that we are in a library. When we burst out of the classroom for a break or heading for the bus, we (especially those of us who don’t hear well) tend to talk loudly. This is especially annoying in the quiet study area next to the
classroom, where people also seem to go to make cell phone calls. Geri volunteered to make a sign for the classroom, and we agreed to monitor the situation and intervene as needed.

Curriculum:
- Report: Nick brought the numbers for Spring Enrollment to date as requested. Not surprisingly, many people have yet to enroll, causing concern about having to cancel undersubscribed courses. Proposal: email blast to push for registration – agreed upon.
- Reports:
  ✓ Fall course proposals have been mailed out, with response requested by March 1.
  ✓ Three second-tier cultural/social activities have been chosen as an experiment for the fall: Book Club, Movie Club and local drive-yourself museum and site visits. A committee member has volunteered to coordinate each of these programs. The next step is to recruit members to take responsibility for individual events or sessions.
  ✓ Winter term evaluations will be done on-line only, starting the week of 2/11 to allow for earlier feedback to the committee and to professors.
- Proposal: A upgraded sound system for the Broome classroom has been suggested, with two mikes – one lapel and one hand-held that could be passed around for questions or used by a second presenter. The cost will be close to $1,000. In response to questions, it was noted that the system would be portable and would belong to us, not the University. Action: Proposal was adopted.
- Concerns: More classrooms? Additional sessions for popular classes? Oversubscribed field trips? All these are good problems, because they are the result of growth, but they are problems we must continue to address. We are looking at options like negotiating a better time slot at the Ventura School District building and other building reportedly recently donated to the University.

Finance/Fundraising:
- Report: The ongoing task of tracking income and expenses within the University financial system is giving us a better handle on budgeting for our program, but it is a continuous, uphill climb.
- Proposal: We should make an appeal for special contributions to pay for the new sound system. Some find this a stretch, after we just completed a drive for $15,000 to support the program, but Finance suggests that targeted campaigns with a specific goal are usually more successful than general appeals. Action: email appeal was approved.
- Report: Gary Collins presented the Finance Committee’s proposed new membership fee/tuition structure for the fall: $100 for a single course, $150 for two, $200 for up to four, annual membership (up to four courses per session:) $450. Annual $25 membership fee (giving access to second-tier activities) is charged for non-class-taking members only. In a later email, Saul adds: “Our objective is to try a new, more enticing fee structure to try to generate additional members at a time when we have a sufficient surplus to conduct this experiment.”
- Action: Given the length of the meeting, the report was accepted as a proposal, but there are differing opinions as to how best to proceed. Finance will bring a modified proposal to the next meeting, and others are urged to do the same – perhaps circulating ideas by email in advance.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15. Next meeting is scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday March 5 at the same location.