OLLI-CSUCI Steering Committee Meeting Minutes 1/3/13

Steering Committee met at 10:30 a.m. Thursday January 3, 2013 in the CSUCI theme room at the Camarillo Marie Callender’s.
Staff: Program Director Nick Fuentes. Guest: Gary Collins, Finance/Fundraising Committee.

Subcommittee Reports:
Publicity/Outreach:
- OLLI-FEST update: Plans are in place for the “First Annual” OLLI-FEST, the winter celebratory gathering of the OLLI-CSUCI family, to be held in the study room next to the OLLI classroom on January 17th. 90 people have signed up from the email blasts, and more are likely to come after announcements in class next week. “Free” parking (reduced rate paid from our OLLI account) is being arranged, and campus catering is providing the refreshments.
- Speakers’ Bureau: An opportunity just presented itself when the Camarillo Kiwanis contacted Nick about speaking to their group about OLLI on Tuesday the 29th. Nick and Jack will take catalogues and copies of our amazing Newsletter to entice the group into coming to classes. We discussed a possible PowerPoint presentation for use with larger groups.
- Website and Newsletter: Said amazing first Newsletter has been emailed to everyone and is on the OLLI-CSUCI website. SC meeting notes will also be posted on the website.
- Classroom decoration: Geri Gretan has plans for a “posting an update on our wall” (to use a Facebook term, I think) by providing a seasonal update to the decorations on the wall of the OLLI classroom. Thanks, Geri!
- First day of class presentation template: Nick will continue to greet the first session of classes with OLLI-bags for newcomers and license plate holders for all. Suggestions from all as to what should be covered are welcomed. We will be asking for volunteers as “class ambassadors”

Finance/Fundraising:
- Tracking by the Finance/fundraising Committee reveals that the between-session Taste of OLLI season was a great financial success, despite – or maybe because of – the reduced rate of $15 vs. the previous $20 per-class fee. Winter enrollment also looks good.
- Healthy enrollment numbers, our conservative budgeting and the ongoing appeal for donations all combine to help us meet our financial goals; which is to say that if we keep on track with our fundraising, we may be able to reduce fees and add membership benefits next fall.
- Gary Collins presented a useful template showing some of the possible new configurations of tuition and membership fees that have been discussed.
- March is the time each year that member programs make their requests to the Osher Foundation for permission to draw from the endowment. Finance recommends asking for the full amount allowed, noting that we don’t have to spend it if we don’t need it. The request was approved by SC.
- Committee members are meeting with staff of the University foundation in continued active pursuit of the process followed by the University for handling donations.

Curriculum:
• The Camarillo Ranch outing was a great success and a good test run for the Curriculum Committee’s road trip idea. More trips are in the works: The JPL tour with Robert Piccioni will be on March 7th, and the first temple tour with Bill Garlington will be Wednesday, March 15th.
• The Camarillo Library speaking program continues, with Jerry Clifford on for Sunday January 27th
• We got a review of the Curriculum process, starting with the distribution of the fall catalogue in July and working backwards to establish the many deadlines that must be met to produce the high-quality, well-organized academic program we have come to expect.

New Directions for fall, 2013
• At the last SC meeting we learned about the many extra-curricular and student-led activities going on in OLLI programs elsewhere, and excitement about moving our program in new directions began to build. What we saw was the social value, as well as the academic enrichment possibilities of activities provide for and by OLLI members, and we resolved to see what we could do for the fall of 2013 and beyond.
• Ongoing discussions since have produced a basket-full of ideas, from hiking groups to book clubs to an OLLI band and beyond! Our discussion today confirmed the consensus that all the ideas sounded like fun, but not all seem practical, especially not at first.
• What we are considering is offering a limited “second-tier” program of activities in the fall catalogue, some with faculty participation, but mostly student-led. But “second-tier” does not mean “second-class!”
• We all agree that we want to maintain our strong commitment to our core program of solid academic, professor-led courses – a standard that sets us off from many of the other programs we have reviewed. But we want to be equally sure that anything we take on and officially sponsor will be well organized and top quality as well.
• So how do we ensure this? Much the same way we monitor and maintain the quality of our core academic program. Curriculum is establishing a working group to look at all the ideas suggested and choose a manageable a few to start out with in the fall. The working group must then find people who will take responsibility for making them happen before bringing the list back to SC for approval. We will also be building in written standards and expectations for activity leaders, who will be actively seeking to improve their events based on the feedback of participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. Next meeting will be at the same location, Thursday February 7th at 3:45