

OLLI Curriculum Committee Meeting
UNT Business Service Center, Room 4221
October 9, 2018
10:00 AM

Present: Stephanie Reinke, Diana Mason, Karen Nelsen, Ellen Hawk, Peggy Higgins, Debbie Smatresk, Ron Fink, Jim Goodnow, Robert Jackson, Diane Hoemeke, Andrea Tuckness

Absent: Pat Check, Sally Austin, Clea Plunkett, Rebecca Fridley, Stephen Booher

Class Selections for Spring, 2019

Each committee member was given a hard copy of the Spring, 2019 Course List, Course Descriptions, & Instructor Biographies. (This information was previously sent, via email, to each committee member.)

- Andrea stated that all classes/slots were filled and there is no need to eliminate any class(es) because of too many proposals.
- Robert Jackson volunteered to alter his teaching schedule to adjust to the previously mentioned change.
- Curriculum Committee, at the suggestion of Debbie, voted to give Stephanie authorization to select classes without committee approval to fill one void in the schedule.

Other Discussion

- Peggy asked about evaluations. Andrea responded that there have been few evaluations, leaving the curriculum committee to use these few and their personal experiences to select classes. Stephanie will address this issue at the National OLLI conference with other OLLI groups.
- Robert suggested access to a phone number for presenters to use in case of an emergency preventing them from making a class at the last minute. Andrea said someone in the OLLI office is available by phone during the week. Contact availability needs to be addressed for Saturdays.
- Suggestions for helping instructors improve their presentations and/or slides included:
 - offer training sessions for non-faculty
 - Dean of COE discussed possibility of having a class on how to teach that would be open to any of our members and faculty
 - OLLI office staff will also help with power point presentations
 - Reid Ferring offered to do a video to help with training
- Once, due to many negative comments regarding one presenter (poor quality of slides, material, and presentation), an OLLI staff member attended a class to observe first-hand the situation. Since the comments seemed valid, it was decided that future class proposals by this individual will not be considered.
- National OLLI program encourages multi-class presentations. Suggestions and current UNT programs to meet this include:
 - Great Decisions Discussion (9 sessions in the spring)
 - Andrew Torget offered to teach his Texas History course every other week for about 9 sessions
 - multi-class language sessions
 - multi-sessions with two or more presenters, alternating the presenters
- Concerns about the OLLI After 5:00 Program at Robson situation after spring semester included:
 - not sure if summer space will be available
 - Robson will be asking for fees (\$250.00 per session) once the original contract with Robson terminates. Efforts are being pursued to extend the contract. Robson Ranch will be charging OLLI at UNT \$250 per OLLI After 5:00 class since this time falls outside the scheduled times in the original contract.
 - Ron suggested bringing the OLLI After 5:00 Program to Denton; location could be other than UNT campus.
- Concerns and comments about repeated classes included:
 - too many; not enough new topics

- survey OLLI membership to see what classes people would like
- Stephanie will look at the number of repeated classes; move repeats to other locations
- with many new members, repeated classes are new to them
- departments are being asked for new presenters and topics
- Skills-based classes have been asked for. Debbie said the OLLI program encourages academic topics, with about 10% non-academic activities.
- Many senior centers in the area are interested in the OLLI at UNT program. Frisco OLLI program may move from the current UNT location to the Frisco Senior Center.
- No additional satellite location will be added to the program for a year.

SIG Report

Book Clubs

- Robert reported that the Frisco Book Club is not making.
- The Twisted Book Club is meeting; two showed up last meeting, others were out of town.
- Great Book Club is doing well; membership is increasing.

Day Trips

- Twenty-two attended the Bureau of Engraving and Printing/ Texas Speedway trip.
- One place is still available for the Dallas Zoo trip—train transportation.
- One place is still available for the Blue Ostrich Winery—payment is pre-trip.

Next Semester Offerings

- Tour of UNT campus by UNT vehicles, lunch on campus, details to follow
- Tour of Frisco Railroad Museum and Dr. Pepper (soccer) field
- Ennis bluebonnet tour, details to follow

Next Summer Offerings

- Denton Recycling
- Kimbell

Collette Trips & Cuba

- Stephanie will check with Collette to see the status of these trips.
- Nine people have made reservations for the trip to Cuba.

Jim suggested thinking about Oberammergau Passion Play and making arrangements soon. He also suggested, for future consideration, an architectural tour of Chicago and a trip to Iceland to see the Northern Lights.

OLLI Curriculum meeting for November has been cancelled. Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 4, 2018 at 10:00am.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:21am.

Post Meeting Comments:

New OLLI catalog will contain part one—standard, general information; part two—class information.

On-line course registration is awkward and cumbersome to use.

“Exchange” programs, via video presentation, with other OLLI programs was asked about.

A UNT podcast with faculty members is being developed.