Osher Leadership Council Minutes
March 3, 2015


Chair, George Pangburn called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

The minutes from the December council meeting were approved as presented. Director and Team reports followed.

Director’s Report: Peggy Watson welcomed and thanked those in attendance.

- Spring classes are underway, and registrations are strong. Classes interrupted by inclement weather and illness are being rescheduled. Summer program planning is underway with many interesting classes, such as wine tasting offered through the Culinary School and a lecture by the American Revolution Round Table of Richmond. We are offering more evening class offerings for the summer, given the longer sunlight hours.
- Osher finances are in good shape. We plan to continue to operate conservatively and anticipate rising memberships and registrations to increase revenue. Revenue rose slightly from July to January. Expenses are up slightly partly due to the increased number of pages of the spring catalog. We will work with marketing to reduce the cost of the catalog in the future.
- The selection process for the new course registration software for SPCS is underway. Six vendors presented with two finalists having been selected. Osher is contributing funds for this specialized package.
- Martin Gravely, director of the Culinary Institute, has extended a 20% discount introductory offer to our Osher students on Culinary Institute classes.
- Osher artists are scheduled to exhibit through the month of September in the Osher office. Currently featured are artists Sheryl Smith and Bill Bailey.
- The Osher Resource Center has relocated to Chicago with Steve Paxton as the newly appointed director. We will be sending Steve a packet of information related specifically to our Osher Institute in the near future.
- Planning is underway for Dean Narduzzi’s retirement receptions and events. There will be many opportunities to honor him. The June 7th reception will be open to all Osher council members. Discussion followed on how best to honor Jim given his support to Osher over the years. A video focusing on his accomplishments will be presented at SPCS night on May 6th.
- We are planning for a fall “back to school mixer.” A date will be set in the next few weeks.

Chair’s Report: Chair George Pangburn thanked the staff for lunch today. He welcomed new council members, Linda Ventura, Peter Goodman, and Charlie Huffstetler. Chair Pangburn briefly reviewed the work of the council during the past year, with the transitioning of a new director and the task of developing a strategic plan. George stated he looks forward to working with the council as we begin to implement the strategic plan this year.

George announced he and Pam will be in Kansas in June. Landon Woody will chair the June meeting.
Curriculum Team: Peggy reported on the Curriculum Team. Sheryl De Leo spoke briefly to the recent dissolution of the team. Members Pam Pangburn and Ann Williams have come forward to serve on a new team. It was noted there are still more than 70 course offerings for the spring without an operating curriculum team. Peggy plans to arrange a meeting for the new team soon.

Development Team: Carl Boberg spoke on his work with the Friends of the Boatwright. Carl stated the FOB is a supportive group for the library, not a fundraising group. They have raised some funds over the years through an annual book sale, now extinct, for the library wish list. The faculty and staff of the library are reaching out to the community educating and encouraging membership to the FOB. Many community members become “friends” while having no other connection to UR. They enjoy the benefit of more than 125,000 databases and special lectures, such as the Peple lecture coming to campus March 22nd at 3pm. Historian, Elizabeth Brown Pryor will be presenting this year. While encouraging our members to join, it was suggested we eliminate this benefit of the FOB membership to our Gold members. Other council members agreed this is an expense the Osher budget should not support. Carl finalized his report by announcing Marshall Ervine has agreed to assume the chair position of the Development Team.

Leader Support Team: George Pangburn reported for team leader Pam Pangburn. George briefly described the operation of the team. Pam follows up with Deb Guild every semester to identify those course leaders needing AV support for the semester and assigns a member ensuring success of our leaders in the classroom. LS team members will also train course leaders at their request on the AV equipment. They have recently added another member to serve on the team and continue to need more members.

Marketing Team: Chair Anne Huffstetler distributed notes from the mid-January meeting. The team reviewed the strategic plan to identify and implement the five initiatives for marketing. The team plans to assist in many ways this year with tables at Osher events, farmer’s markets, UR events such as SPCS night and commencement, the International Film Series and a basketball game. They currently have six active members and welcome more.

Membership: Chair Landon Woody continues to receive encouraging responses related to the informal email survey from inactive Osher members. A copy of her report capturing their responses was distributed to the council. Landon received 62 responses and 3 rejected emails. There have been many positive comments from past members with “lack of time” appearing to be the most common reason for not renewing. As a team, they are discussing the buddy system and “invite a friend to class.” After some discussion of the guest policy, Peggy suggested a one-page draft be submitted to Pat and Jim for their review.

Newsletter: George Pangburn reported they have one new member, Lynne Wilson, recently join their team. She has interviewed Christine Contrada, and the team is awaiting her article at this time. The team will meet in the near future to discuss new ideas for the newsletter.

Strategic Plan: George Pangburn distributed and reviewed the executive summary of the plan. George suggested we continue to look at where we are at the moment and then decide what we wish to accomplish annually. There was discussion among the council members with focus on restructuring membership levels and increasing diversity among members.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Watson and Debra Guild