

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE (OLLI)

STRATEGIC PLAN - 2008

MISSION

OLLI/UA is a non- profit organization affiliated with The University of Arizona by a formal agreement with the Arizona Board of Regents.

The mission, as stated in the Bylaws of the Corporation, is to provide for seniors an enriched environment for teaching, learning and social interaction through participatory classroom experiences in a wide range of academic areas, and to be a constructive participant in the University of Arizona community.

GOAL

The goal of this plan is to identify a direction and lay the groundwork for objectives to be met in next 3 to 5 years.

FACTORS INFLUENCING FUTURE PLANNING

After many years of being a sponsored program of the UA, in 2005 OLLI (under its original name of SAGE) became an independent non-profit organization. In 2005, the University applied for and received an initial grant of \$100,000 on behalf of OLLI from the Bernard Osher Foundation. A second grant of \$100,000 was received in the winter of 2008 with an invitation to apply for an endowment of one million dollars by Oct. 24, 2008. All of these funds must be administered by the University, but are for the sole use of OLLI.

To receive the funding beyond the initial grant, the Osher Foundation required membership growth. To accomplish this, members of the Board of Directors worked with residents of Green Valley, a primarily retirement community, and Splendido, a large retirement facility in Oro Valley, to establish other site programs. A third site has been approved at Heritage Highlands, a large housing development in Marana, serving residents 50 years of age and above. Initial classes will be offered in winter/spring 2009. In Spring 2008, membership in combined OLLI sites had more than doubled since receipt of the first grant.

The receipt of the grant also necessitated a change in the prior relationship with the University. While still adhering to certain University rules, the Board of Directors had control over the expenditure of the operating funds and all donated funds, while the University had the final say in the expenditure of the grant funds. This change and the addition of the additional sites have led to a change in the fundamental nature of the organization. Additionally, the relationship of the other sites to the parent organization has not been fully defined.

Although the raise in membership dues for the 08\09 fiscal year, along with the present grant from the Osher foundation, is anticipated to be sufficient for this year's expenses, costs will continue to rise. Obtaining other funding sources to insure that adequate staff, space, and related expenses are covered without an unreasonable increase in dues is imperative. Therefore, fundraising efforts need to be made a priority. The hiring of a part-time (nineteen hours a week) Membership and Development Specialist, funded by the Osher grant, took place during the summer of 2008. This employee will work with the Finance Committee in developing a long-term plan for adequate future funding.

Other staffing consists of an Administrative Associate, an employee of the University whose salary and benefits are paid wholly by OLLI. This position aids the Board of Directors in administering the day to day operations of the organization. Both these employees are part of the UA Outreach College and report both to the Assistant Executive Director of this college and to the President of the Board of Directors of OLLI/UA.

In the spring of 2008 the OLLI membership stood at 660 members taking classes plus another 23 members with "keep in touch" status. Given the OLLI membership age range, non-renewal for a variety of reasons is to be expected. Continued backfilling and growth are desirable.

Continued affiliation with the University of Arizona under the auspices of the UA Outreach College is in the best interest of both the organization and the University.

GOALS AND ACTIONS

BYLAWS

Goals:

To have Bylaws that will serve the revised structure of the organization and will be flexible enough to respond to future growth of the organization.

Actions:

A committee has been appointed with the specific charge of reviewing the current Bylaws in view of the changes in locations, size and nature of the organization that have been made in the last two years and making recommendations to the Board of Directors for any needed changes.

Upon approval by the Board of any changes to the Bylaws, said changes will be presented to full-year members of the organization for approval.

POLICIES

Goals:

Have clearly written, Board-approved policies that are current and available to all members.

Actions:

Board of Directors will review existing policies and rescind all that are no longer applicable.

Board of Directors will update those policies that are applicable, but need revision due to change in organizational structure. Board will define new policies as it deems necessary.

All current policies will be made known and available to all members of the organization.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

Goals:

To have OLLI/UA on a secure financial footing.

To identify and obtain additional sources of funding that will augment the dues and will enable the organization to meet its other goals.

Actions:

The Finance Committee will, in conjunction with the Membership and Development Specialist, apply for grants, monitor investment income on a regular basis, establish a bequest program, and a program to solicit funds from members, interested individuals, organizations and businesses in Southern Arizona.

MEMBERSHIP

Goals:

The establishment of a steady and manageable growth program.

Increase membership participation in the functioning of the organization, including group leadership, committee membership and openings on the Board of Directors.

Actions:

Outreach to be done in the greater southern Arizona area via advertising, speaking engagements, participation in fairs and special programs open to the public.

Special recruitment efforts to be made toward University of Arizona alumni in the target age range and retired faculty living in the Southern Arizona area.

Increase Social Activities to facilitate new member integration into the organization.

Clarify policies concerning the development and management of sites.

Provide assistance in the planning and presentation of classes for potential group leaders by mentoring from the Curriculum Committee.

Catalog existing material in the OLLI resource library and distribute the information concerning available materials to all members.

Advertise all committee and Board openings.

FACILITIES

Goal:

Identify and obtain adequate facilities for each campus.

Actions:

To be considered by Board of Directors at such time as funding possibilities have been identified.

STAFFING

Goal:

To consider hiring an Executive Director who is not a University employee and who will manage the day-to-day operations of the organization and all other duties assigned by the Board of Directors.

Actions:

Identify and obtain sufficient on-going funding to finance this position.

Negotiate a change to the Affiliation Agreement with the University of Arizona to allow this position to be a non University employee.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

Goal:

Make OLLI/UA more visible in the University and Pima County communities.

Actions:

Explore opportunities to cooperate and coordinate with University Colleges and Departments.

Explore opportunities to coordinate with other organizations offering courses, information and services to the “over-50” population.

The Osher Lifelong Living Institute
at
The University of Arizona/Outreach College
Box 210300, 220 W. Sixth Street
Tucson, AZ 85721



Phone: (520) 626-9039

Email: ollimail@u.arizona.edu

Website: www.oli.arizona.edu