
Friends of Life-Long Learning at Carleton: Newsletter #3

A fair bit has been happening over the last couple of weeks, so this is just to bring you up to date.

- 1) Three of us (Karen Cohen, Andrew Brook and Peter Watson) met with Pauline Rankin (Provost and VP Academic). She is fully aware of our concerns about the cancelation of LLeaP but it is clear that, given the current financial state of the university, LLeaP cannot continue in its old form. However she is very willing to consider alternative structures and we had an extended discussion of the MCLL (McGill Community for Lifelong Learning) model. The outline we presented is appended (though it has evolved somewhat as we move forward): please note that this is intended for discussion.



Waiting for good news!

- 2) Based on this discussion, Dr Rankin will take the MCLL MOU to the university lawyers to see whether it can serve as a template for our organization (tentatively called the Carleton University Association for Lifelong Learning or CUALL). She has also agreed to discuss registration and fee collection with Suzanne Blanchard (VP Students and Enrolment) which we feel would lead to more efficiencies in administration. We are planning to send out a survey to find out your experience of LLeaP and how you would like LLL to evolve at Carleton.
- 3) Problems remain with space allocation: there is very little classroom space available on campus. We will need to look for possible places off-campus: for example the Carleton Dominion Chalmers Centre is underused, and various community centres (such as the Glebe Neighbourhood Activities Group) have suitable space.
- 4) There is also the issue of where the new organization should reside in the university system. Currently it is in the Centre for Initiatives in Education (CIE), part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). We discussed alternate university homes for lifelong learning that might enhance ease of administration. Those options are being explored.
- 5) Given the short time available for what may turn out to be quite complex negotiations, it is unlikely that CUALL will be up and running by September. However, we are considering options so as to not lose learner engagement.
- 6) CUALL will need a solid basis of volunteers. We are currently building up a database to handle this and the survey will include an invitation to offer your services. We will be looking

for people with financial skills, good knowledge of local community groups or the ability to offer technical support.

- 7) We believe it is critical to the program's viability that it continue to be offered under the auspices of a university for several reasons:
- It gives us access to systems of registration and fee collection that would be costly for us to secure as an independent organization
 - It affords us the institutional support to collect funds, pay bills and secure donations and grants – something for which incorporation would be necessary. It would be important that Carleton enable us to attract and receive grants and donations designated for the program's use.
 - The unique feature of Carleton's lifelong learning program is its educational foundation and intellectual rigour. Ensuring these without a university affiliation would be difficult if not impossible
 - We are currently reviewing lifelong learning offerings of other Canadian universities. While our strong preference is for Carleton's program to remain with Carleton, other affiliations might be possible.
- 8) We are currently preparing a business plan to present to Dr Rankin. Our next meeting with her is tentatively scheduled for mid-August.
- 9) MCLL has been very supportive of our efforts in various ways. They have a long-running and successful program, and you are invited to take a look at <https://www.mcgill.ca/mcll/>. Their Fall 2025 study groups catalogue will be posted July 15, with registration opening as of August 5

We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to move forward, so again we thank you for your support.

CUALL proposal:

note this is solely for discussion and not for circulation

Membership:

Open to all interested persons, with an annual fee which entitles them to a designated number of courses per calendar year. Any additional lectures will be priced separately and available to the general public without membership.

Administrative Structure:

We would start with a lean structure that relies in larger measure on a volunteer resource. We will review the activities necessary to maintaining the program (e.g. registration, fee payment, scheduling, liaising with instructors and learners) and determine which of those can be accomplished by volunteers and which services we can contract from Carleton and fund through the program's revenues. Contracted service would include some amount of administrative support (e.g. likely the equivalent of 1.0 FTE rather than the 3.0 FTE that the program had previously employed) as well as classroom use and IT support.

Oversight and Management

The program would continue to be run under the auspices of Carleton who would handle registration and fee payment, functions that would be paid for from learning revenue. Leadership for the program would devolve to a Council made up of volunteers along with seats designated for Carleton and community representatives. The Council would have oversight over program development, promotion and evaluation. Formally the relationship with Carleton would be defined by an MOU

Volunteer Committee

We would accomplish the activities allocated to volunteers through a series of committees. The committees would tentatively include:

Program: we would establish a database of speakers and topics for 6-week lecture series.

Outreach: would liaise with local groups to (e.g.) find suitable venues for courses and lectures which could include but not be limited to Carleton.

Communication: would handle promotion of the program, internal and external

Finance: would oversee fundraising, budgeting and bookkeeping, disbursement of funds.

Program Partners

We have received expressions of support from the Ottawa Council on Aging, Perley Health, and the Royal Ottawa Hospital and will explore other partnerships.

Budget

Business plan in development.