Dear members of OLLI@CCU,

I met with the university’s administration yesterday. In light of their decision to extend spring break for the credit side until March 20, we are suspending all OLLI classes, clubs, excursions and events until further notice. Covid-19 poses significantly more risk for the demographic that makes up OLLI, so the best course of action, before cases appear in Horry County, is to practice social distancing. Putting people of our age together in vans, classrooms, and other scenarios is not prudent; we care too much for our OLLI students to put them at risk of becoming infected. We will spend next week assessing the situation and will follow the university’s lead. (The university, in turn, is following the recommendations of SC-DHEC and the CDC.) If the credit side of CCU goes to an online delivery method for classes, as I believe they will, we will also provide online opportunities for our students. Please give us time to consult with our instructors and devise a schedule of classes suitable for distance learning. Anyone choosing not to complete a course online or anyone scheduled for a class, event or excursion that must be cancelled will get a refund. Please understand that with over 1300 members and a wide array of classes and other activities scheduled for this spring, this process will require the staff’s full attention. Individual calls and emails will just delay that process. We promise that we will communicate with you through email, Facebook, and our webpage as decisions are made. To be clear, beginning at 5:00 p.m. today, March 12, all OLLI classes and clubs will not meet; all events and excursions are postponed or cancelled until further notice.

Meanwhile, we want you to be safe, so if you or a family member is ill, please follow CDC guidelines, stay home, take appropriate precautions, and seek medical attention. We know this is disappointing news. We will do our best to provide you ample programming online to keep you mentally sharp, socially connected, and actively engaged. We now have the technology to do this quite easily, so stay tuned for further updates.

Sincerely,
Carol and the team at CCU’s Academic and Community Outreach