



Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class of 2027
Joyce Avery Paul Christy Laura Simonds	Colet Allen Mary Devlin Ann Magill	Myrna Hall John Schuyler Sarah Tisch

OLLI Council Meeting Minutes
April 15, 2025

Council: Joyce Avery, Paul Christy, Laura Simonds, Colet Allen, Mary Devlin, Ann Magill, Myrna Hall, John Schuyler, Sarah Tisch, Heather Inghram

Committee Chairs: Anne Coleman, Lorraine Vail, Karla Langland **On Zoom:** Dwight Wilson, Ginny Blankinship

Members and Staff: Phyllis Fernlund, Tom Woosnam **On Zoom:** Tracy Palermini, Megan Rutherford

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:34 pm
2. Approval of the Agenda with Flexibility (Devlin, Hall)
 - A. Move *Membership Attrition* from New Business to Membership Report under President's Report.
3. Approval of the Minutes of March 18, 2025 Council Meeting as amended (Magill, Allen)
 - A. Change item 2d under President's Report from *In the past OLLI volunteers read the applications* to *Sarah Tisch has read the applications on her own for the last two years*.
4. Reports
 - A. President's Report – Laura Simonds
 - 1) Membership Report
 - a) As of April 3, the membership count was 1843. As today membership is 1851 which is an 8.8% increase over last year.
 - b) Member Attrition – Lorraine Vail
 - i. Attrition is difficult to measure. Different OLLIs have different types of memberships (ex. quarterly, annual) and fee structures.
 - ii. OLLI at SOU has the most stringent metrics which track renewing, returning, and new members.
 - Renewing – member last year
 - Returning – member after an absence of one or more years
 - New – no prior OLLI at SOU membership

- The returning member category was added after the steep drop in membership due to COVID
 - iii. The most commonly used metric for attrition is to remove new members from the calculation and compare to last year.
 - iv. If aligned with NRC definition, OLLI at SOU's attrition would be in the range of 10-15% rather than 25-30% as currently calculated.
 - v. Laura, Lorraine and Christine Fernlund will meet to clarify and finalize reporting.
- 2) Courses Report
 - a) Laura pointed out that the first page of the report shows that the percents of online and hybrid courses are declining.
 - 3) Updated Calendar
 - a) June 11 is the new date for the June Council meeting.

B. Financial Update – Paul Christy

- 1) Paul distributed a 3-page report on financials as of today.
- 2) The Report is preliminary.
- 3) A draft budget for FY25-26 will be presented at the May meeting.
- 4) Council will vote on a final budget at the June meeting.
- 5) There is \$130K increase in operating funds which allows us to meet the by-law requirement that we have 25% of expenses or 3 months covered.
- 6) Paul reported that it is very likely that OLLI will meet its revenue goals for the year.
- 7) The expense numbers are preliminary at best due to delays in the Workday implementation.
- 8) Paul thanked the OLLI staff and Tracy Palermini for their efforts.

C. Administrative Director's Report – Heather Inghram

OFF THE RECORD

- 1) People seem worried.
- 2) Heather is spending an unusual amount of time on student and instructor behavior.

D. Standing Committee & Other Reports

- 1) Communications – Sarah Tisch
 - a) Report stands
 - b) The committee will have a catalogue workshop to look at alternatives to reduce the number of pages.
 - c) Catalogue is costing too much.
 - d) Sponsorships have been declining.
 - e) The committee has less revenue and increased costs.
- 2) Curriculum – Anne Coleman and Ginny Blankinship
 - a) Report stands
 - b) Anne thanked John, Tom and Myrna for teaching this Spring.
 - c) Paul asked if we should be concerned about drop in Spring courses.
 - d) Sometimes courses are withdrawn due to health issues.

- 3) Fundraising – Dwight Wilson
 - a) Monthly giving report numbers look good.
 - b) Paul asked if a thank you letter is sent for gifts.
 - c) Individuals giving \$100-499 receive a personal thank-you call.
 - d) Individuals giving \$500 or more receive a handwritten note from the president.
 - e) The SOU Foundation sends a letter acknowledging all gifts which serves as the IRS tax letter.
 - f) Dwight is confident goals for the year will be exceeded.
- 4) LRDC – John Schyler
 - a) Report stands
- 5) Membership – Colet Allen
 - a) Report stands
- 6) Programs and Activities – Karla Langland
 - a) Report stands
 - b) Peter Finkle is doing two tours in June.
 - c) John has 37 people signed up for a Friday talk.
- 7) Venue and Technology – Lorraine Vail
 - a) Report stands
- 8) Travel Pilot Project – Myrna Hall
 - a) Report stands

E. Old Business

- 1) Presentation of *Draft* 2030 Strategic Plan – Phyllis Fernlund and John Schuyler
 - a) John presented a slide summary of the plan summarizing the Vision, Mission, Values, Guiding Principles and Goals delineated in the plan
 - b) The goals represent the “heavy lifting” for committees.
 - c) There is a hierarchy under each goal of strategies, opportunities, and recommendations.
 - d) The recommendations are to be implemented over the next 5 years if the plan is adopted.
 - e) Phyllis pointed out that there was a wealth of knowledge and experience on the part of the committee chairs present and they should have input on priorities.
 - f) The Strategic Planning Committee took questions and comments from Council and committee chairs.
 - g) Comments/questions addressed the following:
 - i. Need for smart indicators and recommendations specifically.
 - ii. Reallocation of resources
 - iii. Balance of online vs in-person classes
 - iv. Attrition of online instructors
 - v. Course waitlist
 - vi. New course locations/impact on staff/venue criteria
 - vii. Evening and weekend courses pilot
 - viii. Intergenerational opportunities

- h) John asked the Council and committee to submit written comments by May 1 to John, Phyllis and/or Laura.

F. New Business

- 1) Council Director Election – Candidates and Ballot Language
 - a) The candidate forum will be on 5/7, voting will be from 5/13 to 5/21 and results will be announced on 5/26 or 5/27 depending on Memorial Day impact.

MOTION (Schuyler, Devlin) I move to approve the list of Council Director Candidates and ballot language for 2025 as presented.

MOTION PASSED

- 2) Heather provided a brief update on the Senior Living Facility.

G. Additional Remarks

- 1) The next meeting is 5/20/2025 at 3:30.
- 2) Approval of strategic plan, budget approval at May meeting.
- 3) Laura thanked members for attending the Volunteer Appreciation Event.
- 4) Next Monday 4/21 is the New Member Social from 4 – 6 pm. Laura encouraged Council attendance.
- 5) Laura reminded members to respond to the member survey.

H. The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 pm