



OLLI at SOU Annual Meeting Minutes June 6, 2025

1. The meeting was called to order by President Simonds at 2:05 PM.
2. An In Memoriam slide show was presented to honor OLLI members who have passed away.
3. The meeting agenda was adopted.
4. The Annual Meeting Minutes from June 7, 2024 were unanimously approved. (Joyce Avery, Kay Johnson)
5. Guest Speaker - SOU Executive Vice President and Provost Dr. Casey Shillam
 - A. Dr. Shillam's Background
 - 1) She became a nurse after being hit by a car while working as a Korean Linguist in the military.
 - 2) Wound up in gerontology after many "false starts" after earning a Masters degree in geriatric nursing and a PhD in pain management and older adults.
 - B. Update: Older adult community on SOU campus
 - 1) Proposals have been submitted by potential partners and are currently being evaluated.
 - 2) A website will be constructed to keep the community updated on progress.
 - 3) The senior residences will be integral part of an intergenerational community on campus.
 - 4) The target completion date is fall of 2027.
 - 5) The capacity is not yet determined.
 - 6) The availability of additional levels of care such as assisted living has not been determined.
6. 2024-25 Highlights – Laura Simonds
 - A. A new website was launched in September.

- 1) The effort was led by Lorraine Vail and included a hardworking team of volunteers.
- 2) Some of the new features include an enhanced OLLI catalogue, search function for the OLLI calendar, and improved online registration for courses, programs and activities.

B. 2030 Strategic Plan

- 1) An ad hoc committee was formed, co-chaired by Phyllis Fernlund and John Schyuler, began work on plan in October.
- 2) The Plan was approved by the OLLI Council in May.
- 3) The plan consists of 4 goals: structure, curriculum, connection, sustainability
- 4) Strategies are identified to help achieve the objectives of each goal.

C. Travel Pilot Project

- 1) The committee was led by Myrna Hall
- 2) There were two 2 trips this year
- 3) So far there is not enough feedback to evaluate the program.
- 4) The pilot project has been extended for one year to obtain more data.

D. Membership

- 1) Last year OLLI at SOU membership grew by 8.3%
- 2) New members account for 20% of total membership.
- 3) Post-pandemic growth is continuing.

E. Programs and activities

- 1) New SIGS and one-time presentations are building the connections part of the strategic plan.
- 2) There is now a dedicated webpage for Programs and Activities

F. Courses

- 1) The curriculum committee led by Anne Coleman and Ginny Blankinship, offered a record 382 courses over 3 terms.
- 2) This total exceeded the pre-pandemic number of courses.

7. Financial Report & Planning – Paul Christy

- A. Revenues for this fiscal year were higher than budgeted in part due to higher than expected donations and membership revenue.
- B. Expenses were \$65,000 lower, largely due to changes in office staffing.

- C. A projected deficit of \$47,027 turned into a surplus of \$19,067.
- D. OLLI's operating account (accrued savings) is required to maintain a balance of three months' expenses as a buffer.
- E. OLLI's high level of operating funds allows OLLI to invest in programs and personnel.

8. Member Satisfaction Survey – Laura Simonds

- A. There were 527 responses (28%) to the survey.
- B. Key results:
 - 1) Overall satisfaction has remained steady over four years with 92% rating their OLLI experience as “highly satisfied”.
 - 2) 77% of members are already using the new website.
 - 3) A majority of members would attend weekend and evening courses if offered.
 - 4) In response to questions about potential travel destinations, the most popular destinations are local, regional and North America. The largest response was no interest in traveling with OLLI.
 - 5) Members use the catalogue as the primary source of information, followed by the Newsflash.

9. OLLI at SOU Staff Highlights – Heather Ingraham

- A. Heather introduced and acknowledged the OLLI staff.
 - 1) Janet Fratella – VP of University Advancement and Executive Director of the SOU Foundation
 - 2) Paige Jensen – Administrative Assistant in charge of facilities, registration, payments
 - 3) Megan Rutherford- volunteer coordinator, database maintenance and website support
 - 4) Lion Leonis – IT, PEAK and work study student. Lion has been a talented and patient provider of IT support.
 - 5) SOU IT support (Felicity, Jon, Katherine)

10. VP/President-Elect Comments – John Schuyler

- A. Outgoing leaders acknowledged- Joyce Avery, Paul Christy, Laura Simonds
- B. Current council acknowledged- Council Directors and Committee Chairs
- C. Incoming leaders acknowledged- Jane Ballback, Tony Davis, Tom Woosnam

D. John is headed to Glacier National Park for vacation this summer.

11. Member Questions & Comments – Laura Simonds

A. Are there any plans for summer programs?

- 1) Youth groups will no longer use Campell Center during the summer so the facility will be available. However, they are no longer paying the rent so OLLI would have to pay additional rent if the facility was used in the summer.
- 2) A decision cannot be reached until the financial impact is known.
- 3) The staff is very busy in summer with the fall catalogue and the Open House
- 4) There is a new sig at the Campbell Center at the end of June and a tour of Ashland community garden in July.

B. Is there any talk about outreach to other counties especially with Zoom courses?

- 1) Additional courses from Arizona State may be offered and other opportunities for collaboration with other OLLIs are being investigated.
- 2) Summer audit of SOU in summer with instructor permission is a possibility (excludes art classes)

12. Closing Remarks – Laura Simonds

A. Laura thanked staff members and volunteers for their efforts.

13. The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 pm.

The annual meeting was followed by a musical performance and sing-along by the OLLI Guitar Jam SIG and an ice cream social.