

# OLLI *at* SOU

## Class of 2023

Colet Allen  
Phyllis Fernlund  
John Ferris

## Class of 2024

Tracy Palermini  
Colleen Patrick-Riley  
Susan Stitham

## Class of 2025

Joyce Avery  
Paul Christy  
Laura Simonds

## **Minutes**

**April 18, 2023**

**3:30-5:30 pm Campbell Center**

**Council members present: Colet Allen, Phyllis Fernlund, John Ferris, Tracy Palermini, Colleen Patrick-Riley, Joyce Avery. On Zoom: Susan Stitham and Laura Simonds. Absent: Paul Christy. Also present: Heather Inghram, Janet Fratella, Ginny Blankinship, Anne Coleman, Barbara Klein, Myrna Hall, Peg Evans, Dwight Wilson, Lorraine Vail.**

1. **Call to Order:** President Phyllis Fernlund called the meeting to order at 3:37 pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** without objection.
3. **Approval of the Minutes from 3.21.23** – Minutes approved with subsequent substitution of the following paragraph for Item F, SOU Realignment, in Janet Fratella’s report:

SOU Realignment: The governing board will review the university’s plan to reduce its overall budget by \$9 million in order to align with reduced student enrollment and to avoid continually increasing tuition. The plan calls for the elimination of 80+ positions, 40 of which are currently vacant. Employees in the other 40 positions will receive layoff notices should the board accept the proposed plan. For those employees who are members of SEIU (classified positions), there will be some movement caused by “bumping” of lower seniority employees. OLLI could be impacted, as all positions (except the Administrative Director) are classified.

4. **Treasurer’s Report**– Paul Christy submitted a written report as he is unavoidably absent due to a previous commitment to some grandchildren. (See attached.) Lorraine Vail made two corrections to the report: (1) the Campbell Center support line should read “Instant Hot Water Tank replaced in Member Lounge” instead of what’s there, and (2) regarding the venue duplicate check, it would be clearer for the comment to say “We are waiting for a journal entry from SOU to reverse this charge.” The duplicate payment was not cashed.

5. **OLLI Abroad update:** Lorraine Vail reported on the upcoming fundraising musical theater event scheduled for November 1 through 5, 2023. Note: the title is OLLI “Abroad” although “Aboard” works too.

- The show will be held in Bellview Grange which has both lighting and a stage unlike the Stevenson Union Diversion’s Room; there will be live accompaniment. The cast and crew are all OLLI volunteers; they are working both in OLLI classes and in an OLLI SIG to prepare. Other OLLI volunteers in MSC, CCO, and Development will also be involved as we get closer to show time.

- Tracy Palermini reminded Council that we had approved the concept of OLLI ABROAD in July but not the actual project plan and budget.

(Palermini: Avery) **Move to approve the OLLI ABROAD project team to go forward with a budget not to exceed \$14,500. Motion carried.**

- Lorraine reminded Council that the hope is that this event will be self-funding. She indicated that she had learned a lot from her recent work with the resurrected Ashland Film Festival that will be helpful with this project. Based on the experience with previous fundraiser Café Noir, she anticipates that OLLI ABROAD will sell out. Phyllis thanked Lorraine and all involved for their work on this large and exciting project.

6. **Council Candidates and Election** – Patrick Alexander reported

- Five candidates for election to Council: Colet Allen, Bonnie Cassell, Mary Devlin, Susan Edgerly, and Ann Magill. Four were engaged by Team OLLI; one responded to the Newsflash call for candidates.

- Many thanks to all on the leadership who made multiple personal contacts with OLLI members.

- The ballot language will be presented to Council at the May meeting; the Meet the Candidates Forum is scheduled for 4 pm on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The election will occur from May 25 through the 31<sup>st</sup>.

- There are only five OLLI members currently without access to electronic voting, but Lorraine reminded Council that all members who share one email address for two members must also be sent a printed ballot.

- Phyllis thanked Patrick, Margaret Pashko, and LDRC for their successful work on Team OLLI 2023.

7. **President’s Report and Remarks**

- Welcome to Heather Inghram, our new Administrative Director whose name will never be spelled incorrectly in any OLLI publication again. Phyllis thanked those who supported the reception for Heather before the meeting.
- Membership update: our fiscal year's budget goal was 1580; today's number is 1684 which is great news. We've gained 172 members from our Spring Membership Special, the second highest in history. Kudos (and admiring glances) all around.
- Access Senior Fair: Phyllis reported on her attendance at this large annual Medford event and thanked everyone who represented OLLI there, including Collet Allen, Peg Evans, Robbi McMinimy, Tracy Palermini, and Colleen Patrick-Riley. 2,000 folks attended and we surfaced a number of PIs (another new OLLI acronym to add to our lexicon: "Potential Instructors.") A number of attendees expressed an interest in computer classes.
- Important upcoming dates: May 12<sup>th</sup> – Candidates Forum. There was an expressed hope that the event could be hybrid so that members outside the Valley could become informed before casting their ballots. Phyllis acknowledged her enthusiasm as she looks ahead to the June 13th Council meeting when she will pass her invisible gavel on to Tracy.

## 8. Administrative Director's Report –Janet Fratella and Heather Inghram

- Heather's schedule: in Ashland April 18-20; May 9-11; June 13-14. In residence as of July 1. In the meantime she is available via email at [inghramh@sou.edu](mailto:inghramh@sou.edu).
- Orientation plan: Heather will be meeting via Zoom with committee chairs and liaisons to learn about the inner workings of OLLI; Janet reminded Council that these meetings are NOT to consist of a data dump of all the things that need to be fixed at OLLI; that opportunity will emerge sometime later. Heather will also be sitting in on all committee meetings via Zoom and will be meeting weekly with Phyllis and Tracy.
- RCC Update: Janet clarified that SOU's relationship with the building has not changed; OLLI still has room availability, although not the previously dedicated space, and Heather will be meeting with the HEC course scheduler to determine future use.
- Expressions of Regret: Janet was reminded that she will always have a seat at the OLLI Council table and that the Secretary will be counting on her customary close reading of Council minutes. Which she will continue to receive.

## 9. Standing Committee Reports

- Communications and Community Outreach: Peg Evans announced that work has begun on the Fall catalog.
- Curriculum: Anne Coleman reported that the window for Fall course proposals runs from May 1 to May 31. She thanked Joyce Avery for serving as the online co-host for the Teaching at OLLI course which just concluded; it had half and half Zoomies and Roomies and the hybrid was well supported. She thanked the two panels of experienced OLLI instructors who shared their knowledge with the class.
- Development: Dwight Wilson announced that the committee will be meeting May 10<sup>th</sup> and that, although total gifts were down, the average size of the gift was up. Fiscal year to date: Annual Fund - \$37,795 and Legacy Fund - \$26, 250.
- Finance: as written
- Leadership Development and Recruiting: Patrick Alexander shared more information about Team OLLI; they will be preparing “lessons learned” to hand to next year’s committee. This year 36 potential candidates were contacted, some a number of times; personal contact is the key. Metrics should be tracked going forward on those preferring to wait a year to volunteer. Phyllis praised the in person “meet and greet” and hoped it would continue to be a part of Team OLLI planning.
- Member Services: Barbara Klein represented chair Molly Kilifer who is still in the Balkans. She introduced Myra Hall who will be taking over the helm from Molly starting with the new OLLI year.
- Venue and Technology Planning: as written.

## 10. Ad Hoc Committee Reports

- Policies and Procedures – Susan Stitham announced that the plan is to present the first “bundle” of policies to Council at the May meeting. The second bundle will consist of those policies that are still being developed and will come later to Council.

## 11. Additional Remarks

- Janet Fratella: after announcing “I’ve got nothing,” she went on to express her understandable sorrow at missing the Policies and Procedures work. And continued with an update on SOU’s financial situation: the SOU president presented the SOU Board with a plan which cuts 9 million dollars; the Legislative picture is grim as they are proposing to reduce funding to higher education. But there is a commitment to raise tuition only 5% across

the state. Alternative sources of revenue such as the proposed senior living center at SOU are most promising.

**12. Adjournment:** Phyllis adjourned the meeting at 4:52 pm.