

OLLI^{at}SOU

Council

Class of 2024

Tracy Palermini
Colleen Patrick-Riley
Susan Stitham

Class of 2025

Joyce Avery
Paul Christy
Laura Simonds

Class of 2026

Colet Allen
Mary Devlin
Ann Magill

Minutes

2023-24 Council Meeting

June 11, 2024

Stevenson Union, Room 319

Present:

Council Members: Tracy Palermini, Colleen Patrick-Riley, Susan Stitham, Joyce Avery, Paul Christy, Laura Simonds, Colet Allen, Mary Devlin, Ann Magill; Heather Inghram.

Committee: Anne Coleman, Ginny Blankinship, Lorraine Vail. **On Zoom:** Peggy Evans, Dwight Wilson.

Members and Staff: John Schuyler, Sarah Tisch, Jim Coleman, Bob Palermini, Karla Langland; Megan Rutherford. **On Zoom:** Myrna Hall.

Before the meeting was called to order, photographs were taken of Council and other leadership.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Tracy Palermini at 3:40 pm.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** without objection the agenda was approved with flexibility.
3. **Approval of Minutes from 05/21/24 Council Meeting.** (Patrick-Riley: Devlin) **Move to approve the minutes. Motion carried.**
4. **Reports**
 - A. Administrative Director's Report: Heather Inghram reported that the Newsflash for next Monday would be asking for volunteers to participate in the Fourth of July parade; MaryBeth Limpert of the Events Team is in charge. Heather reminded folks not to come too early in order to avoid standing in the heat; it's not clear that there will be a flatbed for OLLI members who wish to ride. Despite Ashland's past parade history, clothing is not optional.
 - B. Standing Committee Reports
 - a. Communications and Community Outreach: no additional comments.
 - b. Curriculum: Anne Coleman reported that the committee had approved the megafile of Fall 2024 courses today, containing at least 122 courses, with one additional course being advised to resubmit or be withdrawn. Approximately one third will be online with a few others providing online access either with separate sections or as hybrids.
 - c. Fundraising: Dwight Wilson announced that as of the end of May, we have received \$75,000 in contributions to the Annual Fund which is a significant increase over last

year. A fundraising movie matinee is scheduled for September 9, and the film will probably be BEETLEJUICE 2.

- d. Venue and Technology: Lorraine Vail reported that work on the website revision project is well underway with 85% of the pages completed. She announced a contest for FAQs; the submission of the most creative and unusual but realistic question submitted by Friday will receive a secret prize.

5. New Business

- A. 2024-25 Proposed Budget: Treasurer Paul Christy presented the document, indicating that this was the third time that Council had seen this draft, including the Annual Meeting, and that no data has been changed. The budget projects 1743 members for 2024-25 and provides a very healthy six months operating balance, well within our policy requirements. He reminded Council that our fiscal projections anticipate that Council will need to approve a fee increase to \$175 in the 2027-28 fiscal year, but even with that increase, our OLLI fee, adjusted for inflation, will have remained essentially flat since 1992.

MOTION (Christy: Avery): I move to approve the 2024-25 OLLI Budget as presented. Motion carried.

President Palermini thanked all who worked on the budget, including Treasurer Christy, the Finance Committee, Heather Inghram, and committee chairs.

- B. Travel Program Pilot Project

MOTION (Stitham: Avery): I move that the OLLI at SOU Council support the proposed pilot project to determine the feasibility and effectiveness of a travel program, as outlined in the pilot project proposal, with a final recommendation to be made to Council within one year.

Laura Simonds reported on her work, following the direction of Council at the May meeting, to prepare a charge for an ad hoc committee on travel, during which she determined that a pilot project would be a more appropriate vehicle for this project. After some discussion and a few clarifying editorial changes to the motion as printed, **the motion carried.**

Council members expressed enthusiasm for this exciting new membership incentive for both recruitment and retention and gave admiring glances to Laura for her continuing work on this topic.

6. Additional Remarks

- Tracy Palermini recognized outgoing Communications and Community Outreach Chair Peggy Evans for her five years of work with the committee, including the major projects of three catalogs a year and an annual open house and for her willingness to work with incoming catalog editor Jim Coleman. Admiring glances were showered on Peg on Zoom and Jim in the Room. Tracy added thanks to Peg for moving to the Manor and thus jumpstarting our successful pilot project there.

Tracy then thanked everyone for all the work during the past year in rewriting, reimagining, and reorganizing our infrastructure to set Council on a firm foundation for the future.

- Ann Magill commended all the excellent foundational work, invoking her own experience of driving with a car whose frame had been bent in an accident. Which she does not recommend, and which OLLI going forward will be able to avoid.

- Susan Stitham thanked Tracy and immediate past president Phyllis Fernlund for their leadership during a time of major transition for post-Pandemic OLLI with a new relationship with SOU Foundation, new bylaws and a new administrative director. Contrasting the OLLI of 2013, when she joined the Council for her first term, with the OLLI of 2024 as she leaves Council after her second term, she praised the positive growth and resilience of our organization as it continues to be a blessing to this community. In looking back at her service on Council and as chair of Curriculum and LDRC, she expressed gratitude for the great friendships and new discoveries she experienced as an OLLI volunteer and looks forward to continuing to contribute as an instructor.
- Colleen Patrick-Riley shared similar thanks to OLLI staff and leadership, expressed her enjoyment of her three years on the Council, and praised the competent leaders both leaving and coming in; she is proud of our OLLI as it continues to grow.

7. **Adjournment:** President Palermini adjourned the meeting at 4:07 pm.

Attachments

- #5A – 2024-25 Proposed Budget
- #5B – Travel Program Pilot Project Proposal