



Class of 2027	Class of 2028	Class of 2029
Myrna Hall John Schuyler Sarah Tisch	Tony Davis Fernando Gapasin Tom Woosnam	Anne Hartridge Susan Plass Kevin Talbert

2026-27 Council Meeting Minutes

21 July 2026

3:30-5:30 p.m.

Campbell Center, Room A

Council Directors: Tony Davis, Fernando Gapasin, Myrna Hall, Anne Hartridge, Susan Plass, John Schuyler, Sarah Tisch, Kevin Talbert, Tom Woosnam

Committees and Team Chairs: Ginny Blankinship, Mary Beth Lampert, Karla Langland, Dwight Wilson
Absent: Lorraine Vail

Members and Staff: Heather Inghram, Megan Rutherford

1. Call to Order - 3:30 p.m. (Tisch)

Tisch noted that Council directors all come from different backgrounds and have different experiences with communication and collaboration, so please speak up if there are questions or a need for clarification.

2. Approval of the Agenda with Flexibility

Tisch noted that the agenda needed to add approval of the last Council meeting on 16 June 2026. These minutes were prepared by Ann Magill and edited by John Schuyler and Heather Inghram.

MOTION: I move to approve the agenda for today's meeting with flexibility with the inclusion of the minutes from the 2025-26 Council's last meeting on 16 June 2026 (Talbert/Schuyler). Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 16 June 2026 Council Meeting

MOTION: I move to approve the OLLI at SOU Council Meeting minutes from 16 June (Davis, Hartridge). Motion passed unanimously.

4. Reports

A. President's Report: Report stands (Tisch).

B. Treasurer's Report: Report stands with one minor change: add a new name to the committee, Louis Gattozzi (Davis).

C. Administrative Director's Report: Report stands (Inghram).

New membership is currently at 355. The deliberation period for SOU's provisional Vitality Plan with the faculty and classified employee unions is over, and the final plan is expected to be released this week. A separate vote is not required for final approval. The SOU Board will hold a special meeting to approve the FY27 budget on 29 July. Tisch noted that Inghram is co-chair, with Laura Simonds, of the OLLI Open House on 12 August. The three new directors will serve as greeters: Tisch and Schyler will help at the information table. Inghram stated that she will coordinate a photo session of the 2026-27 Council members ahead of the September meeting.

D. Standing Committees and Other Reports

a. Communications – Chair TBD. Report stands.

Tisch was the report author and asked that all reports note the name of the author.

b. Connections & Outreach – MaryBeth Limpert. Report stands.

The committee may want to add a co-chair, but the person in mind currently is very involved with the Open House. Per the OLLI at SOU Bylaws, the President shall appoint committee chairs (or co-chairs), with confirmation by the Council.

c. Curriculum – Ginny Blankinship, Anne Coleman. Report stands except to correct typos in Item 2 from Fall 2025 to 2026 and Item 3 from Winter 2026 to Winter 2027.

Because winter term course proposals are submitted before fall term classes begin, new instructors for fall term can come back to teach in the spring, which will allow time for evaluation of their first classes. Discussion ensued regarding the relatively small percentage of Zoom courses for fall 2026. Very few hybrid courses do well because of the complexity of technical issues, but the committee hopes to encourage more Zoom courses for winter.

Discussion turned to OLLI courses taught elsewhere. Two courses from University of Nevada-Reno have been approved by the committee; one of the two instructors has taught for us before. OLLI Share courses are not vetted by the committee, and sometimes the timing of OLLI Share offerings does not fit our catalog timeline or academic term. Perhaps OLLI Share courses could be listed separately. Perhaps leadership could explore with other OLLIs while at the national conference the possibility of sharing online courses.

Osher Online courses are offered to certain OLLIs for an extra fee, which varies by institution, but those courses could be an option for us to expand our offerings of online courses. The mechanism for paying for Osher Online courses would need to be worked out satisfactorily before this option could be viable.

d. Finance (no report; quarterly) – Tony Davis.

e. Fundraising – Dwight Wilson. Report stands.

Wilson noted that fundraising for 2025-26 exceeded the \$90,000 goal, reaching a little more than \$93,500. The committee is sending out thank-you emails to donors, which will be signed by Schuyler and Inghram. Wilson thanked the committee for their hard work. Tisch noted that this year's goal is \$100K. Inghram added that "OLLI OLLI, Oxen Free" reaped \$10K for 2025-2026. Tisch and Wilson stated that the SOU Foundation is extremely helpful.

f. Leadership Development & Recruitment – Sarah Tisch. Report Stands.

g. Programs & Activities – Karla Langland. Report stands.

h. Travel Program – Myrna Hall.

i. Pricing *ad hoc* Committee (no report; reporting starts in October). Tisch noted that the committee is already hard at work.

j. Venue & Technology – Lorraine Vail. Report stands.

5. Old Business

A. Strategic Plan Priorities (Tisch)

- a. MOTION: I move to open discussion about the Strategic Draft Priorities for 2026-27 (Gapasin/Davis). Discussion: Talbert acknowledged Vail's adjustment of the draft to reflect actual discussion.
- b. MOTION: If there are no objections, I move to ask for unanimous consent to approve the priorities (Schuyler/Davis). The motion passed by unanimous consent.

B. Connections & Outreach Committee Charge (Tisch)

- a. MOTION: If there are no objections, I move to ask for unanimous consent to approve the committee charge. (Plass). The motion passed by unanimous consent.

C. Added to Agenda with Flexibility: Infrastructure improvements regarding the digital sign capital improvement project in the Campbell Center courtyard and the lounge. Council on 16 June 2026 approved the expenditure of up to \$20,000 for signs. Since then, final quotes for the three signs have come in at \$21,728. This is for the TVs themselves, the mounts, and electrical and related work.

MOTION: I move to amend the previous allocation from June (which was not to exceed \$20,000) to not to exceed \$23,000 (Davis/Hartridge). These funds will come out of the \$100,000 for capital improvements already approved. Adding in the classroom lighting and the parking lot steps projects, approximately half of the total approved funds would be committed at this point. Any remaining balance will stay in OLLI's account. The motion passed with one abstention.

6. New Business

A. Strategic Plan Progress Tracking Tables (Schuyler and Tisch): 2025-26 Table

- a. MOTION (Tisch): I move to open discussion about the Strategic Plan Progress tables (Tisch/ Schuyler).

Schuyler reviewed the 2025-26 tracking table and its stated measures toward progress, noting that minor editing is needed in a few places. Many measures were completed, and some would be worth continuing: e.g., working on succession planning; further discussion consider shifting timing of special events or adding more events; discussions and brainstorming about recruitment; discussions about adding evening or weekend courses.

- b. MOTION (Schuyler): If there are no objections, I move to accept the 2025-26 Strategic Plan Tracking Table as presented, with minor editing. The motion was approved with no objections.

Tisch noted that Council still needs to determine which committees or groups should take the lead to work on the 2026-27 priorities, regarding the "who" and the "how." The building out of the Progress Tracking table for 2026-27 will be discussed at the September meeting.

B. Briefer on Parliamentary Procedures (Woosnam)

Gapasin suggested for future agendas setting up a consent agenda, which would take care of multiple routine items at once. Talbert added that an agenda also can identify action items, as separate from items requiring discussion.

Woosnam reviewed guidelines for motions, discussions, and votes. He also discussed, for our general awareness, Chatham House and off-the-record rules about free discussion without attribution regarding sensitive topics. This is an option for Council should there be times when we want to invoke such a rule. Another option might be declaring a closed session with advance public notice. Hartridge has worked with organizations in the past that have a list of categories that allow for closed sessions.

C. Google Site Rules and Structure (Woosnam)

Tisch acknowledged Woosnam's hard work in creating a systematic process for collecting and archiving OLLI at SOU documents in a retrievable manner. Woosnam stated that this is a work in progress. This presentation is about how to handle reports. In the past, documents have been hard to find and have inconsistent formats.

This new system will be a simpler way to handle and committee reports: the chair downloads and fills in the report template, sends it to Tisch with a cc to Woosnam, who then ensures that it all comes together into the Council meeting agenda packet. The report will be a common template, with four simple categories, to be used as needed and appropriate by each committee. Woosnam will put each report into a Google Drive folder for the upcoming meeting. He proposes a dry run with everyone this month to generate a dummy agenda and accompanying reports. He emphasized that the template must be downloaded before being filled out.

Talbert asked that "OLLI" be made evident in the name so as to distinguish a document from other organizations' documents; Woosnam said that the OLLI documents would be in their own Google Drive location. Hartridge asked that last names be used or added to first names mentioned in reports so as not to confuse persons with same first names. Woosnam asked for a list of names of committee members; Rutherford will provide. It was recommended that the committee report template add a space for those who attended that month's committee meeting.

7. SOU Update (Inghram): No additional remarks beyond what was noted in the Administrative Director's verbal report.

8. Announcements

Davis – At our next meeting, we should discuss the considerations of the *ad hoc* committee on security, including alarm/alert systems. Tisch said that Inghram has had emergency preparedness signs made for classrooms (Inghram brought one in for viewing), and the committee is preparing a condensed version of the revised code of conduct to be posted in classrooms and elsewhere at the Campbell Center

9. Adjournment, 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan E. Plass
2026-27 Council Secretary
22 July 2026