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

Minutes
2026-27 Council Meeting
September 15, 2026
3:30-5:30 pm
Campbell Center, Room C

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

Committees and Team Chairs: Anne Coleman, MaryBeth Lampert, Karla Langland, Kim Rosmaier, Dwight Wilson. **Absent:** Ginny Blankinship, Lorraine Vail.

Members, Staff, and Others: Heather Ingraham, Megan Rutherford, Janet Fratella.

I. Call to Order (Tom Woosnam).

Woosnam called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

II. Approval of the Agenda with Flexibility.

MOTION: I move to accept the agenda for today's meeting with flexibility (Davis, Hall). Approved unanimously.

III. Approval of minutes of July 21, 2026 Council Meeting.

MOTION: I move to approve the OLLI at SOU Council Meeting minutes from July 21, 2026. (Hall, Davis). Approved unanimously.

IV. Reports.

Woosnam recognized and commended the hard work that went into each report. He suggested that Council entertain approving reports "as stand" unless there are updates.

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

B. Treasurer's Report (Tony Davis, no report)).

C. Administrative Director's Report (Heather Inghram). Report stands, with updates.

Janet Fratella gave an update on SOU and the Vitality Plan. In July, SOU received $7.5M from the state legislature, which required regular reports on the status of the Vitality Plan. This month the state approved unanimously the second and final tranche of $7.5M; a couple of legislators had expressed concern that other Oregon universities might approach the legislature for emergency funding, but Fratella stated that SOU was in a unique situation and the state is not planning to provide any other emergency funding to other institutions. SOU is moving ahead with becoming a living regional laboratory. The SOU faculty and the administration are working hard on institutional realignment and transformation, scheduled to be in place for Fall 2027. SOU has budgeted for a 16% decrease in student credit hours; students are taking fewer courses, and there are fewer full time students (down 12% headcount minus 11% full-time enrollment [FTE]). At this point freshman enrollment is down 17%. SOU is ramping up student recruiting, marketing, and retention efforts.

There was some discussion about possibly increasing OLLI at SOU's 1-credit enrollment numbers, which brings in approximately $500K revenue to SOU annually from the state. Fratella and Inghram said that there is a limit to how much total money can be generated. The 1-credit program counts in headcount but not in FTE. There are age and residency requirements, so OLLI at SOU members cannot be enrolled automatically. Talbert asked if we can make the 1-credit option an opt-out for members rather than an opt-in, taking into account the existing restrictions. Inghram noted that two years ago OLLI at SOU changed from asking members for 1-credit enrollment every term to having them select the option when they first register, once a year. Schuyler asked how many members sign up for the option; Inghram said that she will have to run a report, noting that there is currently a push to raise awareness (e.g., the Fall Term catalog ad). She reported that there are 1,606 members as of today.

D. Standing Committees and Other Reports (Tom Woosnam).

1. Communications (Anne Hartridge, acting chair). Report stands, with updates.

   Inghram reported that Laura Simonds and Jim Burns will serve as co-chairs starting in January 2027.

2. Connections and Outreach (MaryBeth Limpert, Kim Rosmaier). Report stands.

   Limpert invited all Council Directors to come to the member breakfast on September 26.

3. Curriculum (Anne Coleman). Report stands.

4. Finance (Tony Davis) (no report; quarterly).

5. Fundraising (Dwight Wilson). Report stands, with updates.

Wilson noted the $100K goal for this year, stating that the first appeal letters are going out in a couple of weeks. He praised the "solid support" received from the SOU Foundation. The committee is realistically expecting to reach its goal. Repeat donors are currently at 62%, a good statistic. Wilson encouraged Council Directors to serve as good role models and donate. He highlighted the relationship between annual fund contributions and keeping the membership fee at a reasonable amount. He also noted that the average donation level per donor is increasing, although there is a slight drop-off in the number of donors to date.

6. Leadership Development & Recruitment (Sarah Tisch). Report stands.

7. Programs & Activities (Karla Langland). Report stands, with updates.

   Langland reported that the committee has approved the 11th SIG, noting that the growth of SIGs has occurred with minimal outreach. Four SIGs are underway. Venues are a significantly limiting factor for the long-term development of SIGS. Inghram stated that the Campbell Center cannot absorb more activity because of staff limitations (e.g., available hours, general support). Meetings in people's homes are not allowed for liability reasons (confirmed by Fratella). If OLLI would hire student staff in the future, the office might be able to staff the Campbell Center in off hours. SIGs and classes can meet at public libraries, Pony Espresso, etc. if the reservations are in the instructors' names, but if the reservation is made under OLLI at SOU, Inghram needs to be involved to ensure that all institutional requirements are met. She said that consistent use of particular venues warrant the establishment of MOUs with those partners; the Jacksonville and Medford libraries are heading in that direction.

8. Travel (Myrna Hall). Report stands, with updates.

   Hall reported that OLLI at SOU has received its $9,623 commission from the African safari trip. In budgeting for the future, the committee will be conservative, because the committee has learned that the initial number of registrants for a trip tends to dwindle before the actual departure date. The committee had projected $22K revenue but has moved the projection down to $16K. On October 2, Liz Bell of Premiere World Discover will present on several upcoming trips. The committee has already contracted over $15K from members. The committee will be inviting other OLLIs to advertise our trips to their members. OLLI at SOU gets the revenue if it is our trip alone and OLLI members from other institutions register; if multiple OLLIs contract with the provider on the same trip, the revenue from registrants is split.

   The committee is working on a number of upcoming regional trips: a World War II prequel trip in Medford; a World War II two-day trip to the Oregon coast; a Shore Acres holiday lights trip in December; another excursion to the Klamath Basin to view wildlife.

   Talbert congratulated the committee on its work.

9. Venue & Technology (Lorraine Vail). Report stands, with updates.

   Inghram spoke for Vail in her absence. Capital improvements expenditures are currently at about $20K with another $30K expected soon, all well within budget. Lights for Classroom A will arrive next week and will be installed after Fall Term. Electrical work for digital signs is underway and should be complete by end of the term.

10. *Ad Hoc* Financial Sustainability Committee (Lorraine Vail). The committee has not yet met.

V. Old Business.

A. 2026-2027 Strategic Plan Priorities Metrics: Who/What/When/How (Tom Woosnam and John Schuyler).

Schuyler noted that the metrics for Priority #3, Financial Stability, have been completed and said that this priority can serve as an example of how to answer the four questions for the other three priorities. He reviewed its language.

1. Online Delivery (Curriculum Goal #1, Connections #2).

   Schuyler said that the Curriculum Committee did a lot of good work and provided some language for Council to consider, which he displayed. Coleman summarized the committee's suggestions: look at OLLIs that are successful with online delivery and assess why they are successful. She stated that instructor training could be done by the Curriculum Committee and, as needed, by the Venue and Technology Committee; it would also be folded into new instructor training. Online courses for Fall 2026 are 11% of total courses, whereas normally they are at 20-25%. This Winter online courses are back up to 18%. Davis said that he feels the technology is not quite adequate for what and how he wants to teach. Coleman agreed that more can be done to make online delivery easier and more attractive. Talbert noted that SOU has a staff member, Hart Wilson, who works in the area of online education and perhaps could offer some ideas and help. Inghram suggested that an ad-hoc group work on this priority with the Curriculum Committee. Langland noted that online delivery can help expand membership beyond the Rogue Valley.

2. Partnerships and Collaborations (Structure Goal #4, Connections #4).

   Inghram said that each new venue partnership takes about a year to develop, including developing an MOU and pilot programs, so perhaps the goal for this year should be more realistic, e.g., maybe one new partner by the end of the year. Plass asked if the negotiations are all on Inghram's shoulders, and she said yes. Plass suggested adding leadership into the negotiation/implementation process. Possible groups to work on this priority are the Connections and Outreach committee, the Travel Committee (through its work with other OLLIs), and the Administrative Director. Inghram noted that there are many empty buildings on the SOU campus that could be used, possibly for new SIGs. However, long-term scheduling of SOU rooms

can be an issue, which perhaps could be resolved by leveraging help from SOU staff.

3. Financial Sustainability (Sustainability Goal #2, #3).

   Schuyler referred back to the earlier discussion, when he introduced Agenda Item IV.A..

4. Volunteer Engagement and Succession Planning (Structure Goal #1, #2).

   Possible groups to do the work are Council Directors, committee chairs, and the Volunteer Coordinator. The first step is to review, revise, and implement the new Volunteer Engagement Plan/Succession Plan. Although people in leadership positions at OLLI at SOU usually continue to volunteer after leaving their positions, there are in some cases a shortage of persons interested in becoming new leaders or in joining committees. Rutherford said that a lot of good work has been done recently and there is progress in filling committees and chair positions. Inghram said that succession is a weak link in the process and noted that the national conference will have sessions on this issue; other OLLIs are struggling with it as well. Hall suggested that committees actively discuss succession and consider possible structural remedies.

Schuyler stated that he, Tisch, and Woosnam will be working on a spreadsheet to track progress toward the priority goals for this year.

B. Alert/Alarm System for Campbell Center (Tony Davis).

Davis reported that this is a work in progress: the ad-hoc committee currently is in discussion with two vendors, and the committee is being helped by Cliff Edwards and by SOU staff. They have been talking to two vendors: ROAR, which sells its own proprietary system, and Alarm Grid, which sells third-party systems. Probably there will be an alert button in each classroom and in the lounge that signals the office. The new system will require some training for instructors. Davis will report in October on progress. Inghram suggested that the committee revisit with SOU staff, as the university may already be using other vendors and systems.

VI. New Business.

A. Revisions to Policies and Procedures, Including Committee Charges (John Schuyler).

Schuyler noted that Policies and Procedures do not require membership vote, unlike the By-Laws, as they are operational in purpose. He reviewed the recommended changes (color-coded) to update the document and to align it with the By-Laws amended earlier this year. Inghram manages the base Policies and Procedures document using Track Changes. At the October meeting, Council will vote on these changes; and, after review, on a few additional changes (e.g., use of photocopies) and the proposed changes to the appendices.

B. Recruiting and Attracting New Council Candidates and Other Volunteers (Tony Davis and John Schuyler).

This item was addressed above as part of the Strategic Plan discussion, IV.A.4.

C. Campbell Center Wi-Fi (Heather Inghram).

Inghram stated that wi-fi bandwidth at the Campbell Center is not adequate to handle office work, multiple Zoom meetings, and other usage all at the same time. She did some research on how much strain actually exists and on possible solutions. There is a network fiber feeder cable from the main campus to Cascade Hall that is not being used and can be run next to OLLI's existing fiber to the Campbell Center. Fortunately, trenching will not be necessary. The cost will be up to $6K, which can be paid from the approved capital improvements budget. Once the line is extended, there will be almost no down time to make the connection. The expected result is more than 100 megabits per second.

D. Campbell Center Fire Alarms (Heather Inghram).

This report was tabled until the next meeting. Inghram said that pull fire alarms are needed in the north building.

E. $100,000 Annual Fund Goal for 2026-2027: Council's Role in Assisting Fundraising Committee (Tony Davis).

Davis noted that all of Council should be involved, including making personal contributions to the annual fund. He encouraged Council Directors to send any ideas on how to help achieve the goal to Wilson as chair of the Fundraising Committee.

VII. SOU Update (Heather Inghram).

Inghram stated that she had nothing to add to the previous discussion, IV.C.

VII. Announcements.

There were no announcements.

IX. Adjournment.

Woosnam adjourned the meeting at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan E. Plass
2026-27 Council Secretary
6 October 2026