

As approved November 20, 2024

**Senior Scholars at Queens
Board of Directors Minutes
November 13, 2024**

Board Members Present: Jane Howard, Steve Lauer, Kathy Gray, Tom Gray, Jack Gill, Glenn Paton, Barbara Devinney, Len Norman, Steve Gilbert, Alan Matthews, Carol Kesmodel, Aimee Hite, Pam Nemecek, Ollie Frazier, John Koch, Kristan Smith

Others Present: Don Campbell, Sue Gill, Bill Griesmyer, Gordon Haymond, Ken Orenbach, John Romano, Bill Thomas, Jin Wang

Call to Order: President Jane Howard called the special meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the October 9 Board meeting were approved.

Queens University Report: Jane provided the report from Queens Liaison Allison Meyer-Tucker highlighting two events: Testament to Freedom Choir Concert on November 17 and the Moravian Love Feast on December 8, both in the Belk Chapel.

Nominating Committee – Len Norman presented the Nominating Committee’s slate of three at-large Board positions for three-year terms ending in 2027 – Alan Matthews, Carol Kesmodel and John Romano – and Board member Carlos Glender for 2nd Vice President for terms starting in January. The Nominating Committee also recommended that the Board appoint Kristan Smith as a Co-chair of the Wildacres Committee effective immediately, replacing Laura Little who resigned in October. The recommendations were approved.

With the resignation of Patty Kahle, the Chair of the Marketing and Cultural Diversity Committee is open.

Updates to Bylaws and Operating Procedures: Barbara reviewed a document identifying three inconsistencies in board decisions and recent practices that would benefit from resolution before approving updates to the Bylaws and Operating Procedures. The Executive Committee recommended approval of proposed resolutions.

1. The Board agreed to retain the terminology of a *suggested* contribution of \$5 for in-person guest attendance at educational presentations. The online registration process for guests accessing the presentations via webinar will continue to describe the process for the (required) payment of \$5 plus \$1 PayPal guest fee.
2. Prior to deciding on member access to minutes via the website, the item was deferred for further research on what may be required for nonprofit organizations.

3. The Board agreed to retain the reference in Bylaws Article 3 stating that Standing Committee Chairs are appointed by the Board and remove the reference to Standing Committee Chairs in Article 7.

Updates to Bylaws and Operating Procedures: On November 6, the Executive Committee made a few changes to the draft updates to Bylaws and Operating Procedures and recommended approval by the Board. Due to the shortness of time and the need for some additional research, another Board meeting was scheduled for November 20 at 2 p.m. to review the documents. The ad hoc committee of Barbara Devinney, Pam Nemecek and Len Norman, aided by Steve Lauer and Kathy and Tom Gray, will communicate and resolve revisions to the draft documents by email, and Barbara will provide updated drafts to the Board by November 18.

Copyright Infringement Matter/Speaker Archive: Steve Lauer reviewed his November 5 memo describing four options for Board review, with a recommendation from the Executive Committee for Option 3, which would limit access to the speaker archive to members of Senior Scholars by means of a password-entry gateway, costing an estimated \$500. Aimee demonstrated how the website access would work. The purpose is to protect the organization from copyright infringement risks.

A number of representative presentations may be available for public access via links on the website when they are deemed safe from copyright challenges, such as when SSQ creates the video. The password-entry gateway would be used by members to access “protected” presentations, where a firewall adds security guards against bot searches by outside entities.

New speakers will be alerted to SSQ’s copyright concerns and asked for authorization to post their presentations on the website, with assurances that the contents do not contain copyrighted material. In line with the updated Operating Procedures, the 1st Vice President, who chairs the Curriculum Committee, identifies which videos are considered safe from copyright challenges.

During discussion, it was decided to maintain access to the speaker archive for no more than two years and that only cleared video presentations would be visible by members and not the pdf documents. Presentations will be retained for 2022 through 2024. Presentations in 2021 and earlier will be removed. Each year an earlier year will be removed.

Following discussion, the Executive Committee’s recommendation for Option 3 was approved. Steve’s memo is appended to these minutes. Kathy Gray, the 2025 First VP, will review the past two years of presentations to determine which videos qualify as “safe.”

Treasurer’s Report: Glenn Paton stated he would shortly be making the semi-annual gift to the Church’s Custodian of \$300. He noted that the President at the final meeting of the year traditionally gives a financial report to the membership. He recommended using the simple statement in an oral report that “The organization’s finances remain strong.”

Regarding the potential contribution to staff at Wildacres to assist them with disaster recovery from Hurricane Helene, Steve Lauer will be contacting Phil Blumenthal to assess the need and report to Board next week.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 20, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Devinney, Secretary