

As approved September 10, 2025

**Senior Scholars at Queens
Board of Directors Minutes
May 14, 2025**

Board Members Present: Steve Lauer, Carlos Glender, Said Atri, Jack Gill, Barbara Devinney, Jane Howard, Len Norman, Dave Collins, Aimee Hite, Alan Matthews, Pam Nemecek, John Romano, Kristan Smith

Others Present: Phil Adams, Linda Brandt, Don Campbell, Mary Gaertner, Gordon Haymond, Cynthia Henry, Bill Griesmeyer, Ken Orenbach, Ian Pollitt, Carole Romano, Allison Meyer-Tucker

Call to Order: President Steve Lauer called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: On motion by Steve, seconded by Carlos, the minutes of the April 9, 2025, Board meeting were approved with corrections as noted.

Queens University Report: Allison Meyer-Tucker reported that commencement was celebrated May 3. While a few classes will be going on during the summer, the campus will be quieter until the end of August. Dining options will be limited. There will be some youth on campus for summer camps, many athletically oriented.

The contract between Senior Scholars and Queens renews each June, so Steve met with her and Carrie Wunner, Assistant Vice President of Advancement, to refresh the agreement that was set in 2021. None of the Queens' representatives for that agreement are still involved.

Queens would like to track Senior Scholars' engagement at Queens events, which would entail having a list of Senior Scholars' members. That would just be first and last name, with no contact information, and no one would be contacted or solicited for anything. Other relationship-building opportunities could involve asking the Athletic Department to offer an Athletic Passport to allow members to attend home games at any time, primarily basketball, with the possibility of arranging a night where members would coordinate attendance at a men's or women's game.

Another opportunity that hasn't been utilized before is volunteerism and mentorship. Members of Senior Scholars could help with events and activities on campus, such as registration and checking and acting as an advocate.

Mentorship opportunities could include working with students who are preparing to compete in the annual Entrepreneurial Pitch Competition and the Career Center is always looking for members of the community to sit in on mock interviews, to provide feedback on students' interview skills and public presence. Another way to promote intergenerational interaction would be for some students to attend Senior Scholars' presentations of interest to them.

Steve added that discussions included Queens suggesting some faculty members who could contribute educational presentations to Senor Scholars. Allison is working with the Provost's office to identify which faculty members have a body of work coming out or research in an area that might make a good speaking topic.

Carlos asked about the cost of the Athletics Passport. Allison said it would have to be negotiated with the Athletics Department. If there was limited interest, it might be possible to arrange free or reduced-cost admissions. An app is used via QR code and works for the academic year, so the issue would need to be negotiated annually.

Jane asked about discounted tickets for concerts and big-name speakers and events. Allison thought there was already a ten percent discount, but she will talk with Arts at Queens. Allison left the meeting so Board members could discuss potential changes to the contract with Queens.

Old Business:

Steve said that he plans to finalize the language on avoiding copyright infringements in weekly presentations to be posted to the website. The language could be in the Jotform the speakers complete or on the website link to the Jotform.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Steve referenced the financial report circulated by Glenn Paton on May 1, and Assistant Treasurer Dave Collins highlighted that the organization has over \$82,000 in the bank. The checking account has \$15,870, reflecting shrinkage after paying the bills for Wildacres. Since the beginning of May, one CD maturing was cashed out, adding \$8,187 to the checking account to cover expenses for the new camera and the Marketing Committee's articles in the Charlotte Ledger. Another CD that matured last week was renewed for four months at 4.0% APR. Another CD has matured, and he and Glenn will be discussing whether to pull a few thousand dollars for expenses over the summer and in the fall. Glenn will be distributing the semi-annual gratuity of \$300 to Jonny and his facility maintenance staff on May 16.

Nominating Committee: Len Norman reported that the Nominating Committee met May 13.

For 2026 an election will be held in the fall for three At-Large Director positions and a 2nd Vice President. Three current members whose terms are expiring – Aimee Hite, Pam Nemecek and Dave Collins – have all agreed to serve an additional term, which would end December 31, 2028. Dave Collins would also like to continue as Assistant Treasurer. Kristan Smith has expressed interest in serving as 2nd Vice President and to be considered to continue as co-chair of the Wildacres Committee. Shannon Smith replaced Kristan Smith as one of the Email Coordinators in April, freeing Kristan's time for these duties.

Secretary Barbara Devinney is moving to Winston-Salem, and her position will be available.

If Kristan becomes 2nd Vice President, that will open another Director position through 2026, with the opportunity to serve a three-year term beyond that.

After several years of service, Pam Nemecek has indicated she wants to leave the Membership Chair position in January.

Bob Metzler has stepped down as the Queens Liaison. Len will add some language to the website description for this position.

Some members are being approached to serve as co-chair of the Wildacres Committee.

The Nominating Committee will meet in late August or early September to develop a slate of candidates. A first reading of the slate will occur in October, with the second reading in November. Individuals interested in serving in 2026 or 2027 may go to website or contact Len or Jane Howard.

New Business:

Relationship with Queens University: Steve referred to the earlier perspective from Allison Meyer-Tucker on updating the contract with Queens. The goal is to strengthen and expand opportunities for member engagement with Queens University. He plans to meet with Allison and Carrie Wunner within a few weeks and would like a few others to join him. Carlos expressed interest. During discussion, Steve indicated the new Senior Scholars liaison to Queens would be the initial point of contact with Allison for member engagement opportunities. Suggestions for potential speakers from Queens would be referred to the appropriate Curriculum Committee representative, including Ken Orenbach if the topic fell within the Great Decisions curriculum.

Pam said her initial concerns about sharing membership information with Queens have been allayed, since only first and last name would be shared and no contact information.

Purchase of New Camera. Steve discussed the recommendation of the Executive Committee to authorize the purchase of new camera technology for use in recording and streaming weekly educational presentations to members. The camera and possibly a new controller would address recent technological challenges and cost about \$6,000, according to figures provided by Alan Matthews. The Technology Committee and the Treasurer would coordinate the timing of the purchase to minimize disruption of Senior Scholars' cashflow needs.

On motion by Pam, seconded by Len, the Board approved this expenditure.

Discussion included the possibility of storing Senior Scholars camera equipment in a secure location at Providence United Methodist Church, and Steve will ask John Koch to explore that possibility.

Surplus Funds Committee. Steve presented a proposed Policy on Surplus Funds (Exhibit C of the agenda for this meeting, attached) to establish a three-member committee to make recommendations to the Board on the expenditure of surplus funds. The committee would be

appointed by the Board, comprised of two Board members plus a volunteer from the general membership to make suggestions to the Board on how the surplus funds might be applied.

The Operating Procedures currently provide for two reserve accounts, one with \$20,000 and one with \$30,000. Non-checking account monies on hand in excess of those reserves at the end of any fiscal year would be available to either defray expenses for additional services to our members (*e.g.*, no-cost or reduced-cost bus or shuttle transportation for field trips) or to be donated to other non-political, nonprofit organizations.

Steve mentioned the benefit to members of offering a shuttle bus for the trip to the Earl Scruggs Center an hour away. Having 30-40 cars on the road could be avoided while enhancing opportunities for social interaction.

It was moved by Carlos, seconded by Jane, to adopt the policy to use surplus funds as set out in Exhibit C. Following online voting, the motion was approved with 12 votes in favor. This policy will be included in the Operating Procedures when they are next updated.

Renewal of Space Use Agreement with PUMC. The facility use agreement with Providence United Methodist Church was last negotiated to take effect January 1, 2024, and will renew annually unless either party does not wish to extend the agreement beyond December 31, 2025. The parties have until June 30 each year to provide notice of an intent not to renew. While Senior Scholars facility liaison John Koch wasn't present for the meeting, Steve Lauer had spoken with him regarding the Executive Committee's recommendation to allow the agreement to renew. There has been no notice from the church of an interest to revisit the contract, and Jane mentioned the church is happy with our relationship.

It was moved by Barbara and seconded by Len that the Board allow the existing agreement with PUMC to automatically renew for the coming year. The motion was approved.

Spring Luncheon: Len expressed the desire for more registrations for the Spring Luncheon on June 5. In the past, 72-75 people have attended, and it would be good to reach those numbers this year. The luncheon will be promoted in the weekly emails, and Nancy Stancill would like to encourage signups at Friday's educational presentation.

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Devinney, Secretary

Attachment: Exhibit C

Exhibit C

Policy for Using Senior Scholars at Queens's Surplus Funds

Whereas,

- As of December 31, 2024, Senior Scholars at Queens ("SSQ") had a little less than \$55,000 invested in several Certificates of Deposit (this amount is in addition to the \$6,700 in the organization's checking account, which is used to cover current obligations), and
- The Board of Directors of SSQ (Board) has determined that SSQ should maintain at all times an operating reserve fund of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) (Operating Reserve) and an additional amount equal to one-half of the next year's budgeted operating expenses should be held (Secondary Reserve) in order to accommodate any unexpected needs that might arise. For the calendar year 2025, such a Secondary Reserve would equal ten thousand two hundred forty dollars (\$10,240), and
- The Treasurer has suggested that the Board adopt a policy and approach for using the organization's surplus funds in accordance with its previous determination of an appropriate amount to be maintained as surplus,

Now, therefore, the Board of SSQ hereby resolves as follows:

1. Non-checking account monies on hand in excess of the Operating Reserve and Secondary Reserve (such excess referred to as Surplus) at the end of any fiscal year would be available to either defray expenses for additional services to our members (*e.g.* no-cost or reduced-cost bus or shuttle transportation for field trips) or to be donated to other non-political, nonprofit organizations.
2. Initially, SSQ would distribute no more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) of the Surplus per year. Once the current Surplus has been spent, SSQ would look to distribute the funds invested at the end of a fiscal year minus the Reserves.)
3. Donations to non-profit organizations should be of a meaningful size (*i.e.*, at least five hundred dollars (\$500) in each instance).
4. In making donations to other non-profits, priority would be given to organizations within a 25-mile radius of Charlotte (though exceptions could be made at the discretion of the committee/Board) or to organizations with which Senior Scholars has an ongoing relationship.
5. If in any year SSQ has to use some of the Reserves for operations, replenishing same would take priority over additional services or donations to other non-profits.
6. Each year, the Board shall appoint a committee of three persons, two of whom shall be members of the Board and the third of whom shall be selected by the Board from the general membership of SSQ, to make recommendations to the Board regarding appropriate uses of the Surplus. Nominations for membership on such committee can be made by the President or the Nominating Committee.

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