

**Senior Scholars at Queens
Board of Directors Minutes
September 10, 2025**

Board Members Present: Steve Lauer, Carlos Glender, Said Atri, Jack Gill, Glenn Paton, Barbara Devinney, Len Norman, Aimee Hite, Pam Nemecek, Ollie Frazier, John Koch, Kristan Smith, Alan Matthews, Carol Kesmodel, John Romano

Others Present: Linda Brandt, Don Campbell, Lauren Judson, Gordon Haymond, Allison Meyer-Tucker, Ken Orenbach, Ollie Frazier, Mary Gaertner, Gordon Haymond, Ken Orenbach, Carole Romano, Bill Thomas

Call to Order: President Steve Lauer called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Approval Minutes: On motion by Steve, seconded by Carlos, the minutes of the May 14, 2025, Board meeting were approved, with corrections as noted.

Queens University Report: Allison Meyer-Tucker said that fall classes started two weeks ago. Over the summer, the university welcomed Interim President-Jesse Cureton, who has served as board chair. He will serve during search process for a new president, which is expected to take about a year.

Withers House is being renovated, with completion anticipated in winter. The building will then reopen and be available for meeting and event spaces.

Family and Friends Weekend is scheduled for September 26-28. On Friday, September 26, there will be a neighborhood-wide event to celebrate becoming a Division I athletic school. Activities start at 5 p.m. in front of the Levine Center with food trucks, a bar, and inflatables for kids.

Don Campbell asked about access to the SSQ filing cabinet, which has been in Withers House. Allison said all the furnishings are still in place, and she will see if Facilities can move the file cabinet to another building on campus for easier access.

Allison will send the October events she has so far to Aimee to post on the Senior Scholars website.

Steve Lauer referenced communications he has been having with Queens leadership about a new Memorandum of Agreement, which members will be considering later in the meeting.

Action Items:

Steve presented draft language for use by speakers on the Jotform to acknowledge the presence or absence of copyrighted materials in their presentations. Presentations using such materials would not be posted on the website to protect Senior Scholars from potential liability claims. Following discussion and minor edits, the language was approved. (See Attachment A.)

Steve presented a draft memorandum of agreement with Queens University, for Board approval prior to final negotiation with Queens. Following discussion and minor edits, the language was approved. (See Attachment B.)

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report and Finance Committee: Glenn Paton reported that with two-thirds of the year ended, our YTD earnings exceed expenses by \$2,100. There is sufficient cash in the bank to handle current obligations. Following Board approval in May, two cameras were purchased for \$6,500, which eliminates the potential for charitable spending in the near term. There is about \$42,000 in certificates of deposit. The smaller one for \$11,000 had been renewed that morning, at a rate better than anticipated, at 4.16 percent.

Nominating Committee: Len Norman reported that Lauren Judson is the new Field Trip Coordinator, appointed by the Social Committee Chair. She had been working with Ian Pollitt, who, unfortunately, passed away about a month ago.

Carol Kesmodel has returned as Moderator Coordinator, appointed by the First VP.

The Nominating Committee met on September 9 and nominated three people for important positions. He had provided biographical information on them and asked the candidates to introduce themselves.

Don Campbell, nominated for Secretary, described his background, which included being a registered engineer, a CPA and attorney with ten years in corporate finance and ten years in corporate law. He has been serving on the Senior Scholars Marketing and Cultural Diversity Committee and was President in 2020.

Mary Gaertner, nominated for Queens University Liaison, relayed her enthusiasm for intergenerational activities, saying we have a lot to learn from students. She has worked for the City of Charlotte for several years, which included working on a strategy for housing the unhoused. She looks forward to working with Allison Meyer-Tucker to enhance Senior Scholars' activities.

Carole Romano, nominated for Co-Chair of Wildacres Retreat Committee, said she grew up in New Jersey, married John Romano and moved to south Florida. She is a retired teacher with a master's degree in teaching and a special interest in K-3 students. She started a full-time gifted program in her school. She held officer positions in a large Women's Club in Florida and now serves as secretary of a women's organization in Charlotte. She and John moved to Waxhaw six years ago and have taken part in two Wildacres retreats.

The candidates dropped off the Zoom meeting so Board members could discuss and vote. It was moved by Pam, seconded by Barbara, and approved to elect Don Campbell as Secretary, to be effective at the end of the meeting.

It was moved by Steve, seconded by Carlos, and approved to elect Mary Gaertner as Queens University Liaison, effective immediately.

It was moved by Steve, seconded by Carlos, and approved to elect Carole Romano as Wildacres Retreat Committee Co-chair, effective immediately. John Romano abstained from voting.

At the October Board meeting, the Nominating Committee will be presenting a slate of candidates for the 2026 term when four Board positions are likely to be available.

Webmaster & Email Committee: Aimee Hite said she has posted upcoming speakers on the website. Her practice is to draw speaker information from their Jotform, and she may occasionally fill in a slot with information from the person's website when the Jotform information is pending.

Curriculum Committee: Carlos Glender reported on several speakers and topics that are lined up, including the following:

9/12	Sergio Costello	Globalization of the Economy
9/19	Dr. Mary Jo McGowan	Elections Review: Election Integrity
9/26	Jurgen Buchenau	U.S. Relationship with Mexico
10/3	Judy Goldman	Aging
10/10	TBD	
10/17	Hillary Crittendon	The Pearl Innovation District & Medical School

Social Committee: Len Norman reported on behalf of Nancy Stancil.

November Field Trip: A trip to the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby is scheduled for November 5. The cost is \$30 per person for a 56-passenger chartered bus. The field trip is limited to members, and liability waiver form will be developed, following some examples available via Jotform.

Tom Hanchett, who is featured in a video about the museum, will join the group on the bus and will talk about the Center and Earl Scruggs during the ride. Joe Kendrick, who spoke to Senior Scholars in January and at Wildacres retreat in April, will join our group at the Center.

Joe has a weekly radio program about music and has many connections in the bluegrass community (as well as being a relative of Earl Scruggs). Following a tour of the museum, members will have lunch in town at restaurants of their choice.

The group bus trip is an experiment as a new venture. The Board approved financial responsibility for the cost of the bus via email vote requested on August 17 by President Steve Lauer on behalf of the Social Committee.

Holiday Luncheon: Following Board approval via email vote to sign a contract for the Holiday Luncheon, the event is scheduled for Maggiano's Little Italy at SouthPark Mall on Wednesday, December 3 from 11:30 to 1:30. The price will be \$50 per person for a three-course meal served family style. The email vote to sign the contract was completed August 25. The committee is seeking a speaker who would be available that day.

Future Field Trips: Lauren Judson discussed possible future field trips. One possibility is a tour of The Pearl District and Medical School, where space for touring would be limited to 10-12 people at a time. As America is starting to celebrate 250 years, there might be an opportunity to take advantage of something planned by the city or a museum. She welcomes other suggestions.

Lunch Bunch: Linda Brandt reported that a lunch is planned for September 26 at Leo's Italian Social in Piedmont Row. Aimee will add the information to the website, and a Jotform will be used to register participants planning to attend.

Spring Luncheon Report: Per the report submitted by Len, the Spring Luncheon on June 5, 2025 at Raintree Country Club, with speaker Tom Hanchett, was attended by 82 members and friends.

Membership & Directory Committee: Pam Nemecek indicated that if someone joins on or after June 1, they enjoy a membership for the remainder of 2025 in addition to 2026. Over the summer, there were 18 renewals and 43 new members for a total of 61 memberships for 2026. The current total for 2025 and 2026 is 821. The Membership Directory, accessible via the website, has been updated.

PUMC Liaison: John Koch reported that the church venue for Friday educational presentations now has a curtain on stage. The number and placement of tables for Friday gatherings was reviewed. Three are needed for Membership, two for outside vendors or supporters, and one for Field Trip, which can be shared with Lunch Bunch.

Wildacres Retreat Committee: Kristan Smith indicated the price has increased some for the future, but she needs to confirm the amount.

Technical A/V Committee: Alan Matthews said the team has completed a couple of tests in the church building with the new equipment. They plan to arrive early for the setup on September 12. The new cameras will be the primary ones, with others providing more flexibility.

Board Meeting Schedule: The Executive Committee approved the following schedule for Board meetings through May 2026:

September 10, 2025	February 4, 2026
October 8, 2025	March 4, 2026
November 5, 2025	April 1, 2026
January 7, 2026	May 6, 2026

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Devinney, Outgoing Secretary

Attachments – A and B

Attachment A

Text to appear on or to be associated with access to JotForm for speaker registration:

1. I (the Presenter) am interested in making a presentation to a weekly membership meeting of Senior Scholars at Queens(SSQ). In submitting the information describing a proposed talk, I understand and acknowledge that SSQ has concerns regarding the inclusion in presentations prepared for or given to SSQ members by speakers of material the copyright to which is or may be owned by a party other than the Presenter. Presenter acknowledges that SSQ places a high priority on assuring that it possesses the right to post material on its website without violating others' property rights. I understand that SSQ records each presentation if the speaker in question agrees to the recording. If I indicate below that I permit the recording and agree for SSQ to post the recording on its website, I understand that SSQ must assure itself of its right to do so without incurring liability for violating another's copyright. Accordingly, I have marked the appropriate representation below:
 - a) _____ My presentation does not contain any images or other material in which another person has an ownership interest or, if another person has any such interest, I have the right to use that material and the right to permit SSQ to post the presentation on its website and do hereby grant SSQ permission to post my presentation.
 - b) _____ My presentation does contain images or other material in which another person has an ownership interest I am uncertain as to whether it does. (By selecting this response, I understand and agree that SSQ will not post my presentation on its website for subsequent viewing.)
2. When I submit my material to SSQ via its website, I will indicate whether I consent to my presentation being recorded and, if recorded, posted on SSQ's website for online viewing by members of SSQ subsequent to my live presentation.

Attachment B

Senior Scholars at Queens and Queens University of Charlotte

Proposed Memorandum of Understanding (2025)

Preamble

Whereas, Senior Scholars at Queens (SSQ) and Queens University of Charlotte (Queens) have had a longstanding, productive relationship of mutual benefit since the establishment of SSQ in 1973; and

Whereas, SSQ and Queens wish to continue their relationship while taking into account the growth of both organizations over the years;

Now, SSQ and Queens wish to describe and to document the terms of their relationship and their mutual responsibilities and benefits to and from each other.

1. Undertakings of Queens. Queens agrees that, in respect of SSQ and members of SSQ, it will perform and acknowledge the following:
 - In recognition of the longstanding relationship between the organizations and the goodwill established over the course of that time, Queens agrees that SSQ may continue to operate under the legal name “Senior Scholars at Queens.”
 - Queens will include on its website a link to the website of SSQ, with appropriate description and context regarding the operation of SSQ, to inform Queens’ community of SSQ’s offerings.
 - Queens will make known to members of its faculty and its students the potential availability of members of SSQ who have expressed an interest in serving as mentors for Queens’ students or otherwise serve the Queens community.
 - Queens will inform members of its faculty of the potential of making presentations to members of SSQ at their weekly meetings and coordinate with SSQ’s Curriculum Committee regarding such possibilities.
 - Queens will explore the possibility of identifying students in its community who might benefit from the assistance of members of SSQ in the following ways:
 - Students who have initiated or are considering research projects for which members of SSQ who have expressed an interest may serve as advisors.
 - Students who would benefit from having access to a mentor from among SSQ members.
 - Queens will investigate how to broaden the benefits for SSQ members to realize from participating in Queens’ “passport” for campus events.
 - Queens will continue to provide space at Withers House or elsewhere on its campus for SSQ to store a cabinet containing files and important documents and a mailbox for receipt of materials mailed to SSQ.

2. Undertakings of SSQ. SSQ agrees to investigate and, if feasible, implement the following initiatives:

- SSQ will coordinate with the technical staff of Queens to place on its website a link to the website of Queens. SSQ will utilize Queens' Branding in respect of the website link, in order that SSQ's website content and related communications regarding Queens utilize and reflect Queens' updated branding, including the use of the new logo, brand colors, and consistently referring to the university as *Queens University of Charlotte* in all materials. Queens' liaison with SSQ will provide SSQ with the necessary brand assets and guidelines for reference.
- SSQ will create a mechanism by which members of SSQ can register for events to take place in the Queens community. For that purpose, Queens will advise SSQ of a calendar of upcoming events for which SSQ members will be eligible to attend.
- SSQ will coordinate with Queens to establish a mechanism by which Queens will be able to track usage by SSQ members of Queens' facilities and to confirm their eligibility as members of SSQ, utilizing only first and last names of SSQ members on SSQ's membership list.
- SSQ will investigate a means of allowing students enrolled at Queens who are working with members of SSQ who serve as mentors to those students to attend SSQ meetings in order to strengthen the relationship between SSQ and Queens and to promote intergenerational dialogue.
- SSQ will include in its communications to its members information regarding events and educational opportunities at Queens that might be of interest to them. The link from SSQ's website shall include information regarding opportunities for continuing education available at Queens.

3. This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon the completion of its execution by duly authorized representatives of both Queens and SSQ. It shall continue in force from that date for a period of two (2) years, after which it shall automatically renew unless and until either Queens or SSQ provides notice to the other party of its wish to terminate this relationship, specifying in that communication a date on which the relationship shall terminate not sooner than thirty (30) days following delivery of that notice of termination.

Each of Queens and SSQ shall identify an individual to serve as its liaison to the other organization. The individual appointed by Queens as its liaison shall attend meetings of the Board of Directors of SSQ, but such liaison shall not have authority to vote on matters identified for action by the Board of SSQ. Each organization shall have the right to change its liaison to the other and, upon doing so, shall communicate the identity of such replacement liaison to the other as soon as practicable.

Whereas, Queens and SSQ evidence their approval by the signatures of their designated representatives below.

[signature of Queens representative]

_____, [title of Queens representative]

_____ [date signed]

[signature of SSQ representative]

_____, [title of SSQ representative]

_____ [date signed]