

SENIOR SCHOLARS AT QUEENS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING
January 14, 2026

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

Executive Committee : Carlos Glender (President), Said Atri(1st VP), Kristan Smith (2nd VP & Wildacres Co-Chair & Email Co-Chair), Jack Gill (Technical VP & Tech A/V Chair), Glenn Paton (Treasurer), Don Campbell (Secy)

Past Presidents : Steve Lauer (1st Past President & Nominating Comm Chair)

At-Large Directors : Aimee Hite (2028 & Website Comm Chair), Pam Nemecek (2028 & Membership Comm Chair), David Collins (2028 & Asst Treasurer), Alan Matthews (2027 & A/V Comm), Carol Kesmodel (2027 & Moderators Coordinator), John Romano (2027), Ollie Frazer (2026), John Koch (2026 & PUMC Liaison), Linda Brandt (2026, LunchBunch Coordinator)

Other Attendees : Gordon Haymond (Tech A/V Comm), Ken Orenbach (Great Decisions), Lauren Judson (Field Trip Coordinator), Carol Romano (Wildacres Co-Chair), Bill Thomas (Curriculum Committee), Bill Griesmyer (Email Committee), Nancy Stancill (Social Committee Co-Chair), Len Norman (Social Committee Co-Chair)

Queens University Representative: Allison Meyer-Tucker

As 16 Board Members were present, the required quorum of 12 was achieved.

The President opened the meeting at 2:00pm. The Secretary presented the Board Minutes of October 15 and November 12, 2025. The Secretary explained that the October 15 Minutes were being presented due to a lack of quorum at the October meeting. It was also explained that the November Minutes were changed to clarify that the Wildacres update was made jointly by Kristan Smith and Steve Lauer. No further changes were requested, and both Minutes were approved.

Approved: The Minutes of October 15 and November 12.

The Secretary reported that member Gary Dassenko has accepted the position of Assistant Secretary.

The Treasurer reported that cash and financial accounts remain strong, He reviewed the 2026 Budget that was earlier mailed to Board members. Although it projects a small loss of (\$300), he views the budget as being essentially break-even. The 2026 Budget was approved.

Approved: The 2026 Budget.

	<u>THIS MO</u>	<u>LAST YR</u>	<u>5 YRS AGO</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$54,415	\$64,150	\$46,083
PAID MEMBERS	518	404	n/a

The Queens University representative reviewed upcoming calendar events at Queens and the status of the merger with Elon University. An on-campus meeting was scheduled for Jan. 27 at 1:30pm to discuss the proposed Memorandum of Understanding between SSQ and Queens and other topics.

Steve Lauer, the Nominating Committee chair, acknowledged upcoming work to fill needed positions: Membership Comm Chair, Marketing Comm Chair, 2027 2nd VP, and others. He reported that Jane Howard has resigned from the Board and from the Nominating Committee due to her husband's illness.

The Website & Email Comm Co-Chair, Aimee Hite, opened a discussion of whether website access to the Curriculum Comm meetings should be open to the public or only to members.

Approved: Website access to SSQ committee meetings should be restricted to members.

The Curriculum Comm Chair, Said Atri, and President Carlos Glender reported that nearly all of the 2026 Jan-May speaker slots have been filled. Attention has now shifted to open slots in the Sept-Nov period.

Social Committee Co-Chair Nancy Stancill reported that work has begun on the June Spring Luncheon. LunchBunch Coordinator Linda Brandt reported on plans for the upcoming luncheon. Field Trip Coordinator Carol Romano discussed field trip options including (a) tour and possible speaker event at the Pearl/Atrium medical building, (b) trip to the 250th Anniversary of America event in Camden, SC, and (c) tour of the Charlotte Museum of History's program celebrating the 250th Anniversary.

The Marketing Committee Chairperson position appears to be vacant and committee member Don Campbell raised marketing issues as to (a) the need to find a new Committee chairperson, (b) whether the marketing impact of the twice-weekly membership emails might be improved by concentrating more on the upcoming week's speaker rather than the President's photo and comments, and (c) whether an SSQ advert in the monthly Southpark magazine might be cost-justified,

Membership Comm Chair Pam Nemecek reported on membership renewals for 2026. Also, she noted that she acquired a large number of lanyards for members to more conveniently display their membership card and nameplate in lieu of the current magnetic clip. Pam is still planning to pass her committee duties to a new volunteer and indicated that she might have some candidates in mind.

PUMC Liaison John Koch reported that the mystery of the missing coffee supplies has been solved and turned-out to be a misunderstanding. He has encouraged users of the SSQ storage cabinet to use the available lock. He has added extra tables in Wolfe Hall for LunchBunch and other SSQ groups.

Wildacres Comm Co-Chair Kristen Smith reported that the fees for the 2026 event will be approximately \$320/dbl occupancy and \$445/single occupancy, with PayPal or check payment. Reservations for the April 27-30 event will be available for purchase as soon as next week.

Technical VP Jack Gill reported that new technology may permit dropping some software licenses, such as the Zoho database software.

Under new business, the President and At-Large Director Alan Matthews discussed the possibility of retaining a 3rd-party service to offer members SSQ apparel (T-shirts, sweaters, etc.).

Approved: Carlos Glender and Alan Matthews may spend up to \$150 to explore SSQ apparel.

Also under new business, the President discussed concerns raised by certain elements of the Feb. 9 speaker presentation on artificial intelligence. After discussion, it was left up to the SSQ volunteers involved to decide the appropriate balance between content and censorship.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm. Next meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 11 @ 2:00pm.