

## SENIOR SCHOLARS AT QUEENS – BOARD OF DIRECTORS ZOOM MEETING MARCH 11, 2026

### MINUTES

Board Members Present:

**Executive Committee** : Carlos Glender (President), 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 President** : 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), Ollie Frazer (2026), Linda Brandt (2026, LunchBunch Chair)

**Other Attendees** : Gordon Haymond (Tech A/V Comm), Ken Orenbach (Great Decisions), Lauren Judson (Field Trip Coordinator), Bill Thomas (Curriculum Committee), Nancy Stancill (Social Committee Co-Chair), Len Norman (Social Committee Co-Chair), Mary Gaertner (Queens University Liaison)

**Queens University Representative:** (Allison Meyer-Tucker was absent).

As 13 Board Members were present, the required quorum of 12 was achieved.

The President opened the meeting at 2:00pm. The Minutes of February 11 were presented for approval.

### **Approved: Board Meeting Minutes of February 11.**

The President reported that 1st VP Said Atri had resigned due to medical reasons. Said was thanked for his time and service to SSQ. Hopes for his recovery to health were expressed. Happily, 2nd VP Kristen Smith has agreed to move up to fill the vacancy. This will create a new vacancy for a 2nd VP.

### **Approved: Election of Kristen Smith as 1st VP.**

It was noted that Queens University has won a berth in the coming NCAA "March Madness" tournament, an unusual accomplishment for Queens' first year as an NCAA member.

The Treasurer reported that financial accounts remain strong, and renewal income is ahead of last year.

|                     | <u>THIS MO</u>  | <u>LAST YR</u>  | <u>5 YRS AGO</u> |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b> | <b>\$59,717</b> | <b>\$61,061</b> | <b>\$52,985</b>  |
| <b>PAID MEMBERS</b> | <b>721</b>      | <b>n/a</b>      | <b>n/a</b>       |

Steve Lauer, Nominating Committee chair, noted the new vacancy in the 2nd VP position that he will now be seeking to fill.

The Website & Email Comm Co-Chair, Aimee Hite, displayed some examples of the new and extensive website hosting analytics. It was noted that the March 24 PBS/WTVI news article featuring SSQ should spike website visits.

In the absence of the Curriculum Comm Chair, President Carlos Glender reported on the currently scheduled speakers and open slots remaining in the 2026 Jan-May speaker schedule. The March 20 speaker on Ukraine, Dr. Steve Sobol, has been finalized, but the presentation will be "Zoom-Only" because Wolfe Hall will not be available and no suitable alternative venues were found.

The April 3 presentation on "Complexity and Chaos" will be held at The Pearl Auditorium at 905 Pearl Park Way. Mary Gaertner noted that members are likely to have trouble finding the venue, and she volunteered to create and put street signage in place to assist members looking for the Pearl Auditorium.

Technical VP, Jack Gill, noted that the scramble and confusion to find alternate venues to PUMC on Good Friday would be a continuing headache and a technical problem for SSQ. He suggested that, henceforth, SSQ declare Good Friday an "Open Friday".

**Approved: Beginning in 2027, Good Friday will henceforth be a "Spring Break" for SSQ and no SSQ presentation or speaker will be scheduled.**

Social Committee Co-Chair Nancy Stancill reported that the Spring Luncheon will be held at The Brewery at 4001 Yancey. The speaker for the event will be Sheri Lynch, of the former "Bob & Sheri" radio show.

**Approved: The Spring Holiday Luncheon, will be held on Friday June 5, 2026 at the Brewery at 4001 Yancey, at a ticket cost of \$47 per person. Nancy Stancill is authorized to execute an appropriate contract.**

LunchBunch Coordinator Linda Brandt reported that the next luncheon is planned for March 27 at Maggiano's. Online signups are being encouraged, although signups at meetings are also possible.

FieldTrip Coordinator Lauren Judson reported that the field trip option to tour the Amazon Distribution Facility is no longer available, but a May 12 tour of the Charlotte Museum of History's program celebrating the history of revolution in the Carolinas remains in the works.

Regarding marketing, Lauren noted that the SSQ Facebook page was in need of refurbishment and an update. This problem will be directed to Marketing Chairperson, Anne Miller.

Membership Comm Chair Pam Nemecek reported on membership renewals for 2026. She reported that membership is ahead of last year's pace and within reach of the "break even" mark of 800 members.

1st VP Kristan Smith proposed a program to increase membership by means of a raffle contest. Current members would be encouraged to recruit friends by raffling Starbucks gift cards.

**Approved: The President and 1st VP are authorized to create and put in place a New Member campaign that features a raffle of Starbucks gift cards.**

Wildacres Comm Co-Chair Kristan Smith reported that 35 room reservations have been made for the April 27-30 Wildacres event with only 5 rooms left available. Speakers and entertainment are in place.

Technical VP Jack Gill reported the project for a new Google spreadsheet to archive and maintain SSQ speaker data is complete. Past and future speaker data is now available and self-maintained - an enormously useful tool for Curriculum Committee members.

Under old business, At-Large Director Alan Matthews reported that technical hurdles are unfortunately delaying the project for an online "store" for SSQ apparel.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm. Next meeting on **Wednesday, April 8 @ 2:00pm.**