

## **OSU Emeriti Council Meeting Minutes**

### **Monday, August 25, 2025**

**Council Members Present:** Carolyn Gang, Mike Woods, Joyce Sherrer, Gary Clark, Liz Tarbutton, Sue Williams, Gladeen Allred, Bob Levalley, Kent Sampson, and Gerald Stangl.

**Staff:** Patricia Acurio

**Absent:** Becky Schlais, Bob Graalman, Judy Hoberock, Ray Huhnke, Mike Lorenze.

**Call to Order:** President Carolyn Gang called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Minutes:** April minutes were approved.

#### **President's Report**

President Carolyn Gang provided updates on summer activities, which were light, with a few routine emails from emeriti sent per week. All council positions are filled as follows:

- Academic Standards & Policies - Kathryn Castle
- Access & Community Impact - Mimi Ward
- Athletics, Health & Wellness - Doug Aichele
- Campus Facilities, Safety & Security - Ron Thrasher
- Faculty Council - Tom Royer
- Long Range Planning & Information Technology - John Kirkpatrick
- Research - Ken Bartles
- Student Affairs and Learning Resources - Kent Sampson

The OLLI 20th Anniversary Ad Hoc committee proposed combining the May Emeriti Dinner with the anniversary gala, but the Council recommended a separate fall gala to keep the May MND streamlined. Carolyn will inform Robin, OLLI Director, of this consensus.

However, future programming leadership will shift to **President-Elect Joyce Sherrer**

#### **President-Elect Report**

President-Elect Joyce Sherrer expressed gratitude for support and reaffirmed her commitment to engaging ambassadors.

#### **Ambassadors Report**

Reviewed ambassador assignments (Sept–Nov). New duties include scanning tickets along with greeting and setup/cleanup. One reserved parking spot secured; carpooling encouraged. Restroom construction updates are expected to be completed before

September 27. Ambassadors should arrive 3 hours before kickoff and are released before game time.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Liz Tarbutton reported that Foundation balances were finalized through June 30 (end of fiscal year). No financial activity in July aside from balance updates on CDs.

Transition to online submission of reimbursements is now in place.

A check was deposited into the Alumni Association account instead of the Emeriti account.

Liz is working to resolve the issue.

The Foundation will send letters in September with details about scholarship recipients. Recipients will be featured in the newsletter once identified.

Pending invoice from Dearing's for name tags; Liz will process upon receipt.

### **VP for Activities**

Vice President for Activities, Gary Clark, presented the upcoming speakers scheduled for the next Emeriti Monday Night Dinners.

Fall 2025 Programs:

- September — Jamie Jacob on OSU's drone program and its role in modern warfare.
- October — Tracy Caine on OSU's Oral History Program (materials used in Ken Burns' Dust Bowl series).
- November — the head of the Army ROTC and a cadet from the Air Force will speak at the November meeting
- December – Stillwater High School Choir

Future Programs in 2026:

- Bob Burke on Burns' autobiography
- Denise Weaver on Stillwater Medical Center
- John Loffi on the OSU Aviation Program
- Josh Taylor on OSU Leadership Programs
- Jessica Sullins on OSU Scholarship Advising
- An additional Board of Regents program is possible. Still in conversations.

### **Past President's Report**

Past President Mike Woods reported on OSU construction updates, including the Performance/Wellness Center (status uncertain) and possible senior citizen programming. Suggested that the Emeriti could be a partner group if the project proceeds.

Reviewed nominations timeline: slate due in October and election in November. Positions needed: President-Elect and three Counselors-at-Large (Bob Levalley, Bob Graalman, and Mike Lorenz rotating off).

### **Membership Report**

Mike Lorenz sent a written report on new members before the meeting, and the Council noted positive growth.

Jim & Teresa Ansley — Lifetime Couple Membership

Janice & Barry Herman — Lifetime Couple Membership

Gary Larson — Annual Individual Membership

Jean & Brad Van De Linder (commitment to join upon return from Greece)

### **Catering Report**

Bob Levalley reviewed catering bids and circulated a cost comparison sheet. Finding meals under \$20 remains difficult once the Alumni Center's 10% surcharge is added. Rib Crib was the lowest, but it is not an approved vendor. Approved options included Dunkin' and Hello Catering, while most others exceeded \$20. Mexico Joe's will cater the next luncheon after menu adjustments. Meal prices were last raised from \$15 to \$20 in March 2018, and with rising food costs unlikely to decline, the Alumni Center surcharges further impact pricing.

### **New Business**

The council discussed rising catering costs versus a \$20 charge. Options include simplifying menus, raising prices, or subsidizing costs. Decision: maintain \$20 price for now, subsidize shortfall, and monitor costs. Members will be informed at the September meeting/newsletter. Agreed to explore ordering ~5% fewer meals and monitoring waste. Meal line safety: tables to be numbered and called randomly; speakers served first.

### **OLLI Report**

Carol Schmitz reported that staff recovery is ongoing. 20th Anniversary Gala to be a separate fall event. Membership: ~300 currently; goal 432 this year, 10% increase target, long-term 1,000. Recruitment strategies involve enrolling students in classes, distributing catalogs, and encouraging word-of-mouth referrals. New initiatives: potential free-class voucher for Emeriti members, Lunch & Learn series to create awareness on campus, Faculty Fellows Program, and expanded online offerings. The council agreed that OLLI's success requires shared ownership.

**Announcements:** Question raised on management of Emeriti funds: CDs vs. Foundation investments. No action was taken, but this was noted for further review.

**Adjournment:** Motion was made to adjourn at 2:31. Motion approved.

