

St. Olaf Staff Council
Meeting Agenda and Minutes
March 6, 2026
BC 142

Agenda:

1. March All-Staff (March 19)
 - a. Louis Epstein - Implementation Team Updates
 - b. Svoboda Center - reach out to them
2. Review [All Staff Meeting Form Results](#)
 - a. Ad-Hoc committees
 - i. Staff Recognition - end of year
 1. Budget could be up to \$12,000
 2. We would need to recognize people who had their milestones in 2024 and 2025
 3. Also, if we are going to do gifts for each milestone, we would either need to assign each milestone a gift or have an array of gifts for people to choose from and they just fill out a google form with what they want and we order according to that google form.
 4. Mikayla: My perspective is to keep it simple for this year because it seems a little late to plan a big event at this point, but obviously happy to help if a big event is what we want to do this year.
 - ii. Affinity Groups
 - iii. Reclaiming Chapel/Community Time
 1. Formulate an email to send to Susan/PLT
3. Dinner with Six Strangers

- a. SGA and Staff Council working together to bridge the gap between Staff, Faculty, and Students!
 - i. March 23
4. Friday Fires with SGA/Staff Council
 - a. May 15th
5. Roundtable Check-In
 - i. What's going on in your departments and/or jobs?

Minutes:

Attending: Natalie, Joey, Liz, Ben, Jon, Cindy, Susan, Steve, Claudia, Brittan

Notes:

- March All-Staff Meeting
 - Is there anyone else that we can reach out to that makes sense to be presenting alongside Louis?
 - Looking at the results from the google form that we had at the All-Staff meeting, the Svoboda Center makes sense and they are eager to meet with people and get information out there about what they do.
- All-Staff Meeting Results
 - Ben went through the results - gives us some direction
 - Joey: Is there a group that we can form that helps bridge the gap between Faculty and Staff?
 - Ben: Is there a Faculty side of what we do? Claudia said yes, Faculty Life Committee and Faculty Governance Committee. The Faculty Life Committee would probably be the one to reach out to since they work on their social events. They meet every week. Joanne Quimby leads this group.
 - We could think about inviting someone from Faculty Life to speak at an all-staff meeting.
- Dinner with Six Strangers - SGA initiative. Approached the Staff Council about this months ago.
 - Their first event went super well
 - Tables with new people/non-friends
 - There will 50 staff/faculty spots
 - SGA will organize space requirements

- Staff/Faculty will get food from the caf and bring it to the meeting
- We encourage you to sign up if you can!
- We have the last Friday Fires of the year.
 - May 15th from 3-5pm
 - We encourage you to be there!
- Roundtable check-in
 - People feeling undervalued in Facilities
 - Just coming out of domestic tours for Music Orgs
 - Next year is two international tours! Thinking about that and how the logistics will come together. Choir = Norway. Band = Adriatic.
 - Athletics varies by who is out of season and in season. Things are a little crazy right now with Tennis because they are in season. Pain points around facilities - built before 1968 before women's sports were included. Practice can sometimes be 5am or late at night; right now Baseball, Softball, M/W Tennis, M/W Track all using the same space, Transportation costs, Academic calendar issues regarding Spring Break.
 - Library just got a new head of special collections, her first day was last Thursday. There are going to be a few new hires upcoming as well. Some space moves within their department. Student worker change in work award status has been a challenge for them (losing them because they've hit their work award and some are having to work less, down 20 to 30 hours a week).
 - Provost exhibit event - week long that supports Faculty and Staff works that were submitted through This Week. This will be the week of the 23rd.
 - New Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner starts next week to see students. Lots of sick kids coming through!
 - Accepted students for next academic year, fall and full year study abroad students. The donation from the Smith's has been helpful in covering costs for students to study abroad. It started as a pilot prior to the full gift.
 - Admitted Student Days - March 20, April 10, and April 17. Admissions Officers will start to head back out on the road. Things are looking really good. Most they've gotten in Early Decision, maybe ever!
 - APR - full steam ahead on reunion planning. Trying to work ahead a bit more each year. Alum social in the Bay Area tonight (3/6).
 - [Alumni night at Cabaret](#) - Dinner in KDR between the matinee and evening performances
 - Young Alumni Event at the Puttery in Minneapolis - will involve juniors from St. Olaf. There are touchpoints for each year of students at St. Olaf.

Action Items:

- Send out a call-to-action email about joining ad-hoc committees
- Connect with Eduardo about affinity groups
- Reach out to all-staff meeting speakers
- Natalie and Cindy are in on staff recognition