St. Olaf Staff Council
Meeting Agenda and Minutes
May 1, 2026
BC 142

Agenda:

1. Welcome Jenna Wieden
    a. Sitting in on this meeting to observe
2. May All-Staff Meeting
    a. Enoch Blazis - Campaign
    b. Mike Berthelsen - FY 27 Budget
    c. Athletics - quick update at the end
    d. Update: We need to pivot for the May meeting. Thoughts on who else can speak?
        i. Eduardo?
        ii. Others?
3. Last Staff Council Meeting
    a. Friday, May 15
4. Update on Staff Recognition - May 15
    a. Swag items are starting to come in
    b. Catering order has been placed
5. Conversation with Matt, Ben, and Liz on Chapel/Community Time
6. Reading Day Cookie Volunteers
    a. We are looking for staff and faculty volunteers who would be interested in passing out cookies and fruit snacks to students in the library on Reading Day, Thursday, May 14, from 2–3 p.m. If you are interested, please contact the LITS Events team at LITSEvents@stolaf.edu.
7. Round Table Check-In

Minutes:

Attending: Joey, Erika, Matt, Claudia, Natalie, Lily, Jenna Wieden, Ben, Liz, Susan, Brittan, Steve, Jonathan, Mikayla

Notes:

- We'll plan to have Eduardo speak first at All-Staff, then athletics
- The last Staff Council meeting is the next Staff Council meeting. We'll do a quick 30 minute meeting to check in about our summer cadence. Leaves enough time to get ready for the end of the year staff recognition event.
- Gifts for Staff Recognition St. Olaf cooler backpacks. Tote bags, ponchos and wine/cheese cutting board for swag items for staff recognition.
- The recognition event is in This Week and is on the college calendar.
- Specific invite going to the honorees.
- We'll need people to read off names at the event.
- Had a conversation about chapel/community time. We can't really do it the same as we once did and how it's hard to put the genie back in the bottle. We need to think about how we look at adding to what we already offer and not saying "let's stop promoting chapel".
    - Sunday services remain robust, the daily chapel is smaller than it was 10 or 20 years ago. Unheard of having 19 year olds in chapel on a random Tuesday. Are there ways to not change what we are doing but to add opportunities for meaningful connection. If we move a little slower, we could really do things right. Whatever we do could really be cool and maybe integrate some new long standing practices.
    - Chapel time closing down the campus is highly unlikely
    - PLT (Susan and Eduardo) really like that we have that time. What can we do during those 20 mins daily to offer a time to gather in community.
    - Builds into the "there is so much happening on campus and attendance is low in all the things". We need to think about how we scale back but also make things intentional.
- Roundtable
    - Admissions - it's national decision day! Students have until midnight tonight to deposit. We are currently hitting numbers (and over a little), expect some melt before the start of the school year. Other schools are not meeting their numbers, so we are lucky!
    - APR - We are 26 days away from reunion and are at 1,424 registrants as of right now about 300 over last year at this point. I encourage you to look at the online schedule to see what goes into making this weekend happen.

- Provost - Honors Day today!!
- Piper - Just had Ole Cup, it went really well! Tears of joy! The winner has to go and present at the MN Cup.
- Athletics - hosting the conference at Olaf this year. Had a department fundraising campaign last week, hit the number of donors and raised over $300,000!
- Library - Getting busy with stressed out students hanging around! The second floor got a makeover and it looks quite nice now! Currently hiring students for next year.
- Facilities - The Boiling plant has been busy with getting AC pushed to buildings. Steve was selected as advisor of the year for the billiards club!!
- Music Orgs - Busy, dealing with the Alumni Hall restack as well. Did see the numbers for Reunion becuase they help with Service or Remembrance. Already starting planning for Christmas Fest and tours with the Choir to Norway and Band to Italy.
- Counselling Center - They are no longer on a waitlist, share that with students you are working with!

Action Items:

- Reply to Eduardo to confirm that he will speak at the May All-Staff Meeting
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