St. Olaf Staff Council
Meeting Agenda and Minutes
November 11, 2026
BC142

Agenda:

1. Welcome Email to New Staff in your Division
    a. Did everyone send an introduction to their division?
    b. Meet your staff council members tabling event? Over a couple days, 11-1.
        i. Does anyone want to organize this?

2. November All-Staff Meeting
    a. November - Kathryn and Tarshia are going to be in Mpls that day, so it won't work for them to present at this All-Staff. Ben has reached out to both Dave Van Wylen and Fernando about presenting.
        i. Dave Van Wylen, Interim Project Manager for Repurposing of Rolvaag
        ii. Fernando Sevilla, AI-generated imagery and other creative applications of similar technology

3. Tarshia's Request for Futuring Technologies Committee
    a. Jeanie Owens
    b. Still waiting to hear back from Fernando

4. Feedback Form Submissions
    a. Oct 15 - At the September faculty meeting, faculty voted to have the Google Gemini auto pop-up assistance in Google Docs, Slides, etc. disabled by default for both faculty and students, and IT has now done so and created an "opt-in" option instead. However, the same option is not (from my understanding) available to staff. This highlights yet another example of how faculty have the power to vote on and change policies that affect their work, while staff do not. If Staff Council could somehow push for this opt-in option to be considered for staff, or at least petition IT

to create a way for individual staff to turn off these Gemini "assistance" options, I think it would be much appreciated (at least by me)!

i. Jeanie, did you hear from IT?

b. Oct 29 - Why doesn't the staff council include staff from the facilities department? That's a large number of staff that are not represented on the council at all. How are you advocating for this department in council meetings? There isn't even a division that facilities staff fits within that I can select.

i. Ben responded

c. Nov 4 - I am reaching out to request that the Staff Council advocate for us regarding AI integration into Google products. Currently, faculty and students have AI integration turned off by default, though they can request to have it re-enabled individually. For staff, there is currently no way to disable AI integration. I have found this frustrating and inequitable; we should have the same power to make that choice for ourselves as the faculty and students do. I very much hope you will take this up with college administration.

5. Staff Council Roles and Responsibilities

a. Suggestions/changes/discussion

6. Round Table Check-In

7. Reminder, if you haven't already done so, to send Ben and I the committees that you sit on

Minutes:

Attending: Liz, Ben, Jeff, Lily, Jeanie, Liv, Cindy, Claudia, Mikayla, Joey, Megan, Natalie, Jonathan, Kelli, Brittan

Notes:

- Welcome email went well - couple responses
- November All-Staff meeting
    - Dave is in: 10-15 minutes repurposing Rolvaag Program
    - Fernando wants to push back presenting so we'll see what he wants to do in November
    - Kelly Malhum could talk at all-staff about fall sports?

    - Tony Skalski to speak at All-Staff meeting

- Liz put forth Jeanie and Fernando names for Futuring Technologies Committee. Joshua Lee is a backup if Fernando doesn't want to participate.

Feedback Form Submissions:

- Jeanie talked with Roberta and IT is working on putting together directions on how to opt out of AI in Google Products
    - No timeline but coming hopefully soon
    - Tony Skalski to speak at November All-Staff meeting
- NYT says Google will stop search for schools that reject AI https://www.nytimes.com/2026/11/03/us/google-search-schools-restrict-ai.html
- Forms touch on inequity between Faculty and Staff about opting in/out on AI attachments

Staff Council Roles and Responsibilities

- Changed the wording on HR titles on the Google Doc
- Include staff council meetings in This Week?
- How to pick other staff members to be a part of committees we are asked to staff?
- We are now the only hosts and planner of the all-staff meetings
- Is there more we could be doing to establish community? Work with Eduardo, etc. to find more ways to promote community events around campus.
    - Ie. Reading of the Iliad outside on the quad is a great community event that only three staff attended. Good example of a campus event that we could help promote
    - Just alerting fellow division members about different opportunities on campus
    - What is open to staff? How to communicate what is open to everyone and to make it equitable so that we aren't picking and choosing what is worthy of further promotion.
    - Reminder on our slides about how to access events open to the public/staff
    - Reserve last five minutes of meetings for open promotion of events?
    - Faculty does something similar in their meetings where they ask if anyone has anything to share.
    - A lot of support for a few minutes for people to share about updates in all-staff meetings.
    - Invite Jeremy Lobach to a meeting

Round Table Check-In

- HR is restructuring
    - After a few departures, there are a few open spots and those spots have been redesigned/rethought

- If you come across events around campus that aren't on the calendar to please reach out to Liv for promotion.
    - Ideally two weeks in advance
- Christmas Fest? Do we want someone to give updates on Christmas Fest
- How are events shared on the calendar? Is there a way to give people more confidence on which events they are able to attend

Action Items:

- Ben to reach out to Tony about speaking at November All-Staff
- Liz to check in with Kelly Mahlum today with potentially speaking at November All-Staff meeting about fall sports
- Start including Staff Council meeting notes in This Week
- Schedule 5 minutes at end of all-staff meeting for open promotion
- Reminder to send Ben/Liz a list of the committees that you currently sit on
- Liz to share slides with Liv and Liv can come up with a write-up we can share with the staff about how to promote events, making sure to say who it is open to
    - Way to make the event description more clear on who it is open to?
- Ben to email Jonathan about presenting on Christmas Fest