

Budget, Audit & Tariff Committee Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 1:00PM

Voting Members: Alba Vogland, Nate Rivera, Andy Crocker, Melanie Lewis, and Justin Roberts.

Non-Voting Members: Josh Thomas, Jason Hagen, Abernathy

Guests: Josh Planton

1. Announcements and Introductions

- a. Alba called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and introductions were made.

Committee Action: Motion by Nate to approve the minutes from September 25, 2024. Seconded by Andy. Motion passed.

- b. Alba thanked the members for attending the meeting and noted that OUNC has sent a letter requesting additional funds which the committee will review later on the call.

2. Old Business

a. Review 2025 budget status

- i. Josh reviewed how OUNC is tracking against its [2025 budget](#), noting that income is running on average 9% higher once the tariff adjustment is accounted for. He noted this is to be expected, given there is typically a slowdown occurring in Q4 each year.
- ii. Nate suggested that a breakdown of actual revenue on a quarterly or monthly basis would be helpful to see.
- iii. Josh noted that insurance costs did go up this year, which was not allocated for in the 2025 budget, but will be going forward.
- iv. OUNC also used its sponsorship funds for marketing opportunities in 2025, including AM NW and promotions with the Portland Trail Blazers.
- v. Josh noted several other minor adjustments in 2025 expenses, and plans to purchase some equipment in 2026 to avoid rental charges.
- vi. Regarding personnel, OUNC had to pay out Kitty's vacation and health insurance costs have gone up. OUNC is now working with OCC to pick up support due to Kitty's departure, which should yield cost savings in 2026 under a new service agreement.
- vii. With 67% of the year having occurred, OUNC expenditures are tracking at 69%.

3. New Business

- a. Review draft 2026 budget; recommend adoption to full board or reconvene committee before October meeting
 - i. Josh reviewed the [proposed 2026 Budget](#).

- ii. Josh noted that Adam had put together a calculator for tariff adjustments, but he had some questions he wanted to follow-up with Adam on before confirming the adjustment was completely accurate.
 - iii. The group discussed the call center costs, which Nate noted should be leveling off over the next few months. Josh will run a comparison of historical data to make sure the costs are trending in the right direction.
 - iv. Nate suggested transitioning from quarterly F2F Board meetings to every other month F2F Board meetings. Josh noted his thoughts on adjusting the schedule, noting that this sort of change would need to be approved at the Board level.
 - v. Nate also suggested hiring a low-level admin to help Josh with dormer approvals and meeting coordination, so Josh can prioritize more important work items. Josh noted that some of the items he is spending his time on are working themselves out and should not be as big as an issue moving forward.
 - vi. Josh reviewed several more proposed changes to expenses in 2026.
 - vii. He noted that OUNC will likely stick with Bob for training purposes, given the feedback from the Training and Education Committee, but will also utilize CGA videos which will mean a reduction in production costs.
 - viii. He is also looking at ways to reduce printed materials costs. – wall calendar
 - ix. The Training and Education Committee is also looking at possibly holding a Safety Summit. Estimated costs for this event would be between \$30K to \$50K. One suggestion Josh noted was having OUCC confirm their willingness to volunteer at the event as part of their agreement on increased funding in 2026.
 - x. There will not be an audit next year, so legal and accounting fees will remain at \$20K.
 - xi. Payroll costs will decrease, but an OCC contract will replace some of those expenses.
 - xii. Based on these updated costs, OUNC would see a budget overage of \$179K in 2026. Reserves are approximately \$775,996 today. Josh is also planning to move over to increase its investment holdings to gain better earnings.
 - xiii. Josh noted that the reserves are intended to shield OUNC from a loss of its service provider, OCC.
- b. OUCC request for additional funding
- i. Josh reviewed the letter from OUCC which is asking for a budget increase from \$60K to \$75K.
 - ii. The group asked if OUNC could provide Operational support with OUCC, and Josh noted that he will need to check with Kim on OCC's capability in supporting this.
 - iii. It was also suggested that OUCC could roll their website into OUNC's to reduce administrative and upkeep costs.

- iv. Josh noted that the real value of OUCC is to help OUNC at doing real work in the field, and Alba added that it has been 10 years since the last increase. In 2015 there was an additional loan which was paid back over three years.
- v. Melanie commented that there still seems to be money in OUCC's budget each year. Alba noted that any unused funds are spent on media buys in underrepresented geographical areas.
- c. Review, recommend 2026 Service Tariff Rate adjustment to full board
 - i. Josh shared that the current tariff is at \$1.54 and based on the calculator the rate should go up to \$1.61. The total billable in 2026 would then be 2.8million.
 - ii. Nate noted that he would like to see the deficit closer to \$50K in 2026 and at zero by the end of 2027. To avoid a higher deficit in 2026, Nate suggested pushing back the safety summit to 2027, which would reduce the overage by almost half.
 - iii. Josh noted that the CPI-U rate is at 2.7% which will bring the total tariff adjust to \$1.58, making the total billable income \$2.67million.

Committee Action: Motion by Andy that the BAT Committee recommend to the Board to increase the tariff to \$1.58 starting January 1st, 2026. Seconded by Melanie. The Committee members discussed increasing the tariff even further within the parameters set forth in the Board policy. Josh noted that he will come back to the committee with additional information on how they can reduce the deficit within the next two years using the current tariff policy limitations. No further discussion was heard. Motion passed.

- d. Discuss Financial Review status, timing for reporting
 - i. Josh shared that he is working with Aldridge on this who worked on the last couple of reports. He is deciding whether or not to report out at the January meeting final numbers or wait until 2025 reporting is complete and then do a full review at the April meeting.
- 4. For the Good of the Order
 - a. No comments
- 5. Next Meeting – tbd
 - a. The Committee agreed to hold another meeting at 1pm on Monday, September 29th.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:59p.m.

Minutes submitted by Josh Planton 9.20.25