



Council members attend monthly meetings that are not open to the public. This brief highlights non-confidential topics that may be shared widely with staff. Any questions can be directed to the linked resources or to askUSAC@psu.edu.

Guest Speakers

At the July 20th USAC council meeting, USAC members were joined by Jennifer Wilkes, Vice President of Human Resources; Jill Musser, Senior Director of Employee Benefits; and Sara Thorndike, Senior Vice President of Finance & Business/Treasurer for a discussion on potential changes to the health benefits plans for 2024. This is the same presentation that was given to the Faculty Senate during their plenary meeting on July 11th. More information on the health insurance benefits provided by Highmark can be found on the [HR website](#).

Special Thanks for Outgoing USAC Members

The University Staff Advisory Council would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all the outgoing members of the council. Staff members serve a three-year term on the council.

- Karen Armstrong, World Campus
- Elizabeth Edmondson, Eberly College of Science
- Debra Flaig, Continuing Education
- Linda Klimczyk, University Libraries
- Lynne O’Cain, Eberly College of Sciences
- Gretchen Paules, Office of the Chief Information Officer
- Benjy Romig, Office of Information Security
- Christy Shaw, College of Health and Human Development
- Mary Jo Stevenson, Student Affairs at Penn State Mont Alto
- Billie Jo Yuhaniak, Chancellor’s Office at Penn State Fayette

Committee Updates

July marks the end of the 2022-2023 year for the University Staff Advisory Council. With members rolling off and committee chairs transitioning, much of the work for July includes wrapping up and documenting initiatives and events and ensuring a smooth transition of duties to the continuing members.

- The Communications Committee creates this monthly brief, which is distributed by email to all staff, updated on the [news and updates section of the USAC website](#), and announced [through Penn State News](#). The committee is working on two upcoming press releases and completing the 2022-2023 USAC

Annual Report. Updates to the newly redesigned [website](#) were completed. In addition, the committee continually updates USAC's social media channels, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

- The Membership and Elections Committee completed selection of new members for the 2023-24 academic year. The new members join the council and begin their 3-year term in August.
- The History Committee is compiling historical information regarding USAC and preparing to contribute records to the University Archives. Because available USAC historical information is limited, current or former USAC members are encouraged to share documents that may be relevant to creating a historical picture of the council and its activities. Please email askUSAC@psu.edu if you have any records to share.

Little known facts or benefits: Transportation Discounts

Penn State employees are eligible for discounts on car rentals through Avis, Budget, Enterprise, and National Car Rental. More information is available on the [transportation discounts page](#).

Actions and reminders

- Review information on [how to identify and prevent the spread](#) of spotted lanternflies.
- The Penn State community is encouraged to report potential issues about behavior that is inconsistent with the [Penn State Values](#). A 24/7 [Penn State Hotline](#) is available or call 800-560-1637.
- Looking for a reason to visit University Park? [Ag Progress Days](#) will be held August 8th through 10th.

Next Council meeting

The next USAC meeting will be the general council retreat, held on Tuesday, August 8th, 2023.

University-wide committee involvement and staff opportunities available

USAC officers and members sit on a variety of external committees, which can be found on the [USAC Impact page](#).

Valuable links

- Show a colleague how much you appreciate their efforts with a [Positive Paw](#)
- Recognize a fellow Penn Stater by submitting a ["WE ARE"](#) shout out in Penn State Today
- Don't miss important announcements and news from [Penn State Today](#)

What is USAC and Member Benefits

The University Staff Advisory Council consists of dedicated staff who act in an advisory capacity to central administration; explore issues, policies, and practices that impact staff; suggest revisions to policies and new policy initiatives; and advocate for staff welfare and development. USAC serves the PSU president and administration through the vice president of human resources and accepts new members annually.

Contact us: askusac@psu.edu

USAC Website: <https://hr.psu.edu/university-staff-advisory-council>

LIKE us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PSUUSAC/>

Connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#)