



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](mailto:askUSAC@psu.edu).

### **Annual Retreat**

The USAC Annual Retreat, the first USAC meeting of the new term, was held on August 8<sup>th</sup>. This meeting provided an opportunity for the new and existing members to meet and network, learn from various speakers, and understand expectations for the coming year. The retreat kicked off with a workshop on Power and Privilege, which was presented by Dawn Amsberry, Jackie Dillon-Fast, and Linda Klimczyk of the University Libraries Rankism Solutions Community of Practice (RSCOP) group. The workshop provided the opportunity to discuss common types of power and privilege in the workplace, build awareness, and assess the impact power and privilege has on the workplace. The council was then joined by two guests, Michael Wade Smith, senior vice president and chief of staff, and Jennifer Wilkes, vice president for Human Resources and chief human resources officer, who discussed their roles at Penn State and took questions.

### **Welcome to the New USAC Members**

The University Staff Advisory Council would like to welcome 12 new members to the council. Staff members serve a three-year term on the council.

- Leah Carraway-Justice, organizational change management consultant, Office of Change Management
- Lisa DeGregorio, administrative support assistant, Penn State Mont Alto
- Jackie Dillon-Fast, information resources and services supervisor, Penn State University Libraries
- Patrick Dunne, director of strategic communications, Penn State Abington
- Matthew Heller, IT project manager, Penn State IT
- Teresa McCloskey, auxiliary officer unit coordinator, University Police and Public Safety
- Jody McCullough, research project manager, College of Medicine
- Melissa Meyer, executive assistant, Office of Planning, Assessment and Institutional Research
- Nathaniel Reed Geyer, research support assistant, College of Medicine
- Benita Smith, executive assistant, Dickinson Law
- Paul Smith, EPCSE education program coordinator, College of Education
- Ashley Stauffer, analyst, Office of the Senior Vice President for Research

## Committee Updates

August marks the beginning of the 2023-2024 year for the University Staff Advisory Council. The new council members selected committees, and the work of a new year began.

- All USAC Committees are welcoming new members and planning events and initiatives for the coming year. There are 8 USAC Committees for 2023-24 term: Awards & Recognition Committee; Bylaws Review Committee; Communications Committee; Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee; History Committee; Logistics and Events Committee; Membership and Elections Committee; and Outreach and Engagement Committee. The Bylaws Committee is active every other year, and the History Committee is a temporary, one-year committee.
- 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 also completed a [press release](#) on the new USAC Leadership and completed the [2022-2023 USAC Annual Report](#). Updates were made to the [website](#) and to USAC's social media channels, including [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).
- 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](mailto:askUSAC@psu.edu) if you have any records to share.

### **Little known facts or benefits: Fall Development Programming**

Penn State Human Resources (HR) Talent Management has a great lineup of new and returning professional and personal development programs available this fall. A wide variety of training opportunities are available to build on current skills, explore new ones, improve work relationships, or prepare for a new role. See the [full schedule of programs](#).

## 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.

## Next Council meeting

The next USAC meeting is on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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](#)