



University Staff Advisory Council Meeting Brief and Updates

March 2024

This brief highlights topics that should be shared widely with staff. Any questions can be directed to the linked resources or to askUSAC@psu.edu. For information on USAC, the Voice for Penn State Staff, visit the [USAC website](#).

March Meeting Recap

The University Staff Advisory Council meeting on March 19 featured several guest speakers. The first speaker was Jamie Campbell from the [Council of College Multicultural Leadership \(CCML\)](#), who shared the makeup and efforts of his group and discussed ways the groups could support one another. Next, the USAC Ad Hoc Committee gave a presentation to solicit feedback from USAC members on possible changes affecting the future of the Council. The council spent the final hour of the meeting with Jennifer Wilkes, vice president of Human Resources, and Jennifer Pritts, senior director of compensation, to discuss questions related to Compensation Modernization.

Newly Elected Leadership

During February and March, USAC elected officers and committee chairs for the 2024-2025 academic year. Congratulations to the new USAC officers and committee chairs:

- USAC Chair-Elect: Matthew Heller
- USAC Secretary-Elect: Alice Puzarowski
- Awards & Recognition Committee Chair: Chris Adams
- Communications Committee Co-Chairs: Patrick Dunne & Ashley Stauffer
- DEIB Committee Co-Chairs: Teresa McCloskey & Nathaniel R. Geyer, DrPH, CPH, GISP
- Logistics & Events Committee Chair: Amy Bockis
- Outreach & Engagement Committee Co-Chairs: Paul Smith & Leah Caraway-Justice
- Membership & Elections, as stated in our by-laws, will be chaired by Rachel Galloway in her role as past chair.

Committee Updates

- **Awards** – The committee is evaluating nominations for the USAC Staff Awards.
- **Communications** – The committee completed updates to the [USAC website](#), made multiple posts on USAC's social media channels, and drafted the monthly brief.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging** – The DEIB committee is aggregating and evaluating data collected at the two virtual listening sessions on February 28 and 29. The committee will create a report on the trends and themes from the sessions.

- **Logistics** – The committee set up the webinars for the Listening Sessions, pulling attendee, poll, and survey data on the back end for reporting, and assisted the Outreach & Engagement Committee with registration forms and Zoom links for upcoming events.
- **Membership & Elections** – The committee evaluated new membership applications for the 2024-25 academic year and is conducting candidate interviews.
- **Outreach** – The Outreach Committee continues to work on a Quick-start guide for Staff Advisory Councils to use when first organizing their group and activities. The committee is also planning the Regional Engagement meetings, where all campuses local to the host are invited, and the summit, which is scheduled for April 18.

Staff Facts or Benefits Highlight: Positive Paws Program

A Positive Paw is an easy way to recognize your peers and express gratitude. Simply write a note and give it to a person who made a difference to you or those around them. You can request Positive Paws sticky notes by emailing askusac@psu.edu or download them through the [Positive Paws website](#).

Important News, Updates, Reminders

- **Feedback Requested!**
As USAC prepares for the 2024/2025 term, we request feedback from Penn State staff to determine which issues USAC should prioritize in the coming year. To provide your input, please [complete this two-question survey](#). We greatly appreciate your time and support!
- **USAC Travel Engagement Meetings**
USAC's final travel engagement meeting of the year will be held at the Beaver campus from 10 am to 2 pm on June 20. Staff from the New Kensington, Dubois, Altoona, Greater Allegheny, Fayette, Shenango, and Behrend campuses are invited to attend. [Register here](#).
- **USAC Summit Scheduled for April**
USAC will host its annual summit on April 18 from 10 am to 3 pm where staff advisory council members from all colleges, campuses, and units across the commonwealth will convene for a day of learning and networking. The event will include an in-person option at the Technology Support Building in State College, as well as a Zoom portion for virtual participation. The deadline to RSVP was April 5, 2024.

Valuable Links

- 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](#)
- Show a colleague how much you appreciate their efforts with a [Positive Paw](#)

About USAC

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/usac>

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

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