



## University Staff Advisory Council Meeting Brief and Updates April 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](mailto:askUSAC@psu.edu). For information on USAC, the Voice for Penn State Staff, visit the [USAC website](#).

### April Meeting Recap

At the April 16 meeting, the University Staff Advisory Council was given an update on the status and redesign of the annual report, as well as a preview of the Annual Summit agenda. The Council also voted on two motions to allow strategic planning to happen each July, led by the USAC officers and including all members of the council. Lastly, the council discussed proposed changes to the mission, vision, and future structure of the council in preparation for presentation and discussion at the USAC Annual Summit.

### Committee Updates

- **Awards** – The committee selected the honorees for the USAC Staff Awards and a ceremony honoring [award winners](#) Nichole Ginnan, Erik Cagle and Dawn Hamaty was held on May 10.
- **Communications** – The committee completed updates to the [USAC website](#), made multiple posts on USAC's social media channels, and drafted the monthly brief. The annual report is also being drafted.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging** – The DEIB committee is aggregating and evaluating data from the 2024 listening sessions to create a report on the trends and themes from the sessions.
- **Logistics** – The committee assisted the Outreach & Engagement Committee with registration forms and Zoom links for the Summit and the Awards Ceremony events.
- **Membership & Elections** – The committee has completed candidate interviews and made new membership offers for the 2024-25 academic year.
- **Outreach** – The Outreach Committee hosted the USAC Annual Summit on April 18 where staff advisory council members from colleges, campuses, and units across the commonwealth convened for a day of learning and networking. The committee is also planning the final Regional Engagement meeting, to be held June 20. More information is below.

### Staff Facts or Benefits Highlight: New HR Live Chat

Penn State employees now have an additional option for contacting Human Resources (HR) via a new live agent chat feature within [WorkLion](#). The chat feature connects employees directly to an HR associate. Learn more in the [recent article from Penn State Today](#).

## 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 Meeting**

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 virtually or in person. [Register here](#).

- **Spotted Lanternflies**

The 2024 Spotted Lanternfly inspection season is upon us. In compliance with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine, please be sure that you are completing the required Spotted Lanternfly inspections. The only addition to this year's quarantine zone is Greene County. Find more information on [Penn State's Spotted Lanternfly webpage](#).

## 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](mailto:askusac@psu.edu)

USAC Website: <https://hr.psu.edu/usac>

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