



University Staff Advisory Council Meeting Brief and Updates for Staff August 2024

USAC Updates

Meetings with Leadership

As part of USAC's role in representing university staff, USAC officers regularly meet with executive leadership to communicate staff feedback and disseminate critical information from leaders back to staff. Historically, USAC officers have met with Jennifer Wilkes, VP of Human Resources. Beginning in the 2024-2025 term USAC officers will meet with additional leaders. Below is the recurring meeting schedule.

- Neeli Bendapudi, President, and Michael Wade Smith, Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff – Quarterly
- Jennifer Wilkes, Vice President of Human Resources – Monthly
- Sara Thorndike, Senior Vice President, Finance and Business, Treasurer – Monthly
- Margo DelliCarpini, Vice President for Commonwealth Campuses – Monthly
- Tracy Langkilde, Interim Provost – Bi-monthly

General Council Meeting Recap

Facilitated Strategic Planning Session

[Daniel Newhart](#), Assistant Vice Provost for Planning, Policy and Measurement, facilitated a two-hour workshop with USAC members focused on development of the 2024-2025 term strategic plan. Particular attention was paid to the council's existing strengths and the assets Penn State has in place to achieve its goals.

2024 – 2025 annual priorities include:

- Transparent pathways for career advancement for staff
- Inclusion of staff at all levels and all campuses in decision making
- Improved communication and engagement from leadership

General and Committee Updates

1. The **2023-2024 USAC Annual Report** is now available on the USAC Website.

2. **The Communications Committee** is requesting feedback on the USAC Monthly Meeting Briefs. Staff can submit feedback via this [Microsoft Form](#).
3. **The DEIB Co-Chairs** will lead upcoming staff listening sessions. Dates TBD.
4. **The Outreach & Engagement Committee** The first USAC Travel Engagement meeting took place at Penn State York on September 11. Travel engagement meetings focus on enhancing USAC's connection with local Staff Advisory Councils (SACs) to increase collaboration and enhance understanding of opportunities for and challenges faced by staff across the commonwealth. Visit the [USAC website](#) and look for updates in these monthly briefs for dates, times and locations of future travel meetings.

Programs for Staff

MoneyCounts: Financial literacy series

The Sokolov-Miller Family Financial and Life Skills Center hosts live financial literacy webinars. Check out their [Fall 2024 live webinar calendar of events](#) including topics such as student loans, financial literacy overview, debt management and financial decluttering.

Penn State Emerging Leaders (PSEL) program now enrolling

The deadline to apply is September 30. The PSEL program is designed for full-time University staff members interested in developing their leadership skills and focusing on identifying and developing effective leadership attributes. The program is open to staff members at any Penn State campus, college or unit. See the [Penn State HR website](#) for more information and to apply.

SustainaLions – New Employee Resource Group (ERG)

SustainaLions aims to educate and connect Penn State employees through a collaborative alliance focused on sustainability. Email sustainalions-erg@psu.edu for more info and to join. [View the HR website](#) for more information about ERGs.

Send a colleague some kudos with a “[We ARE](#)” Shout Out in Penn State Today.

Or show a colleague your appreciation by downloading and sharing a [Positive Paw](#) sticky note.

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.

Meeting Briefs and updates highlight topics to share widely with staff. Contact us at askUSAC@psu.edu. For information on USAC, the Voice for Penn State Staff, visit the [USAC website](#).

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

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