



USAC MEETING BRIEF

April 2023

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 April 16th USAC council meeting, USAC members were joined by Jill Musser, Senior Director of Employee Benefits, and Candy Yekel, Associate Vice President for Research, to discuss employee data. In addition, the council watched the [Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging \(DEIB\) Update](#) with President Neeli Bendapudi and Special Adviser for Institutional Equity Jennifer Hamer.

Committee Updates

- The Awards Committee reviewed all submissions for the USAC Staff Awards and selected the recipients. The committee is coordinating the awards ceremony, to be held May 2023.
- The Communications Committee oversaw announcements in Penn State Today regarding USAC membership applications and the [USAC Presents seminar on Edible Gardening Tips](#). Committee members continue to update USAC's social media channels and [website](#).
- The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) Committee is continuing to review the University's newly launched [DEIB dashboard](#) to discuss findings and implications for university staff and USAC. The committee intends to use information gathered from the dashboard, Jennifer Hamer's recently released report, and the [2020 Community Survey](#) to determine upcoming USAC event topics.
- The Logistics and Events Committee is helping coordinate two upcoming travel meetings in May and June, as well as the USAC Awards ceremony in May. The committee also planned the third installment of the *USAC Presents* series, which has been rescheduled to Friday, May 12th at 1:00 pm and will focus on home gardening with a speaker from the Penn State Master Gardeners program. Interested participants can register [through LRN](#).
- The Membership and Elections Committee has reviewed all applications for the 2023-24 and is finalizing the interview process. Applicants will be notified of their status by the end of May. The committee also completed the election of new USAC Leadership for 2023-24.
- The Outreach Committee is planning two Community Engagement meetings, one on May 18th to the Harrisburg campus and one on June 15th to the New Kensington campus.
- 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: News Readership Program

Penn State staff, faculty and students have access to a variety of local, national and global newspapers for free through the University's Student News Readership Program, including the New York Times and Wall Street Journal. More information can be found on the [news readership website](#).

Actions and reminders

- The Values, Ethics, and Compliance 2023 Training is required annually for those individuals who have received an assignment from the Learning Management System (LRN). The training is due by May 15th, 2023. To access the training, log in at <https://LRN.psu.edu>.
- [Registration is open](#) for the *USAC Presents: Spring Gardening - Creating a Beautiful and Edible Garden!* seminar on May 12th at 1 pm. Participants who signed up for the seminar before it was rescheduled do not need to register again.
- University Park faculty and staff are receiving new id+ cards at their home address via USPS mail. Upon receipt, cardholders must activate the new id+ card through <id.psu.edu/activate>.
- 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 will be held Thursday, May 18th, 2023 at Penn State Harrisburg.

University-wide committee involvement and staff opportunities available

USAC officers and members sit on a variety of external committees, which can be found at [Impact | PSU Human Resources](#).

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
- Find COVID-19 information at <https://virusinfo.psu.edu/>
- 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](#), [Yammer](#), or [Instagram](#)