

University Staff Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Brief February 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 February 16th USAC council meeting, USAC members were joined by Iris Richardson, the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) for the [University Policy and Public Safety](#) (UPPS). Iris described her efforts to incorporate DEI into all aspects of UPPS, including community relations, leading initiatives, and training.

Committee Updates

- The Awards Committee is currently accepting [nominations](#) for the annual USAC Staff Awards. The committee is also planning the USAC awards ceremony for May 2023 and sent an invite to all USAC members.
- The Communications Committee published press releases on [USAC membership applications](#), the [upcoming USAC Presents seminar](#), and [USAC Staff Awards nominations](#). Committee members have been updating USAC's social media channels and the [USAC website](#).
- The Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity Committee, with leadership from Chair-elect Rachel Galloway, hosted two Listening Sessions in early February to collect feedback regarding staff morale. The committee is organizing and analyzing the data; the results will be shared with university leadership later this spring. The committee also discussed and presented a vote to change the name to the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) committee in alignment with other PSU initiatives. The motion passed at the council level.
- The Logistics and Events Committee hosted the second [USAC Presents seminar](#) on February 23rd in collaboration with the Faculty Senate. The topic was employee orientation to EAP and work/life. In addition, the committee continues to coordinate logistics for USAC's upcoming travel meetings and the USAC Summit in March. Lastly, the committee is documenting the processes for hosting training events to help future committee members.
- The Membership and Elections Committee is accepting USAC membership applications for the 2023-24 academic year. The committee updated the application and prepared a press release. The committee is also organizing the election of USAC Leadership for 2023-24.
- The Outreach Committee is finalizing details for the USAC Summit, which will be held March 30th, 2023 at the Technology Support Building. The committee is also planning two travel meetings: one in May to the Harrisburg campus and one in June to the New Kensington campus.
- The History Committee is compiling historical information regarding USAC. They met with University Archivist, Ben Goldman to discuss what materials the archives wants to collect from USAC. Because available USAC historical information is limited, if any former USAC members have documents saved that may be relevant to creating a historical picture of the council and its activities, please email askUSAC@psu.edu.

USAC Website: <https://hr.psu.edu/university-staff-advisory-council>

Contact us: askusac@psu.edu

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Little known facts or benefits:

Sokolov-Miller Family Financial and Life Skills Center

Need help with money management? The [Sokolov-Miller Family Financial and Life Skills Center's](#) mission is to provide students with the ability to use knowledge and skills to manage financial resources effectively for a lifetime of financial well-being. In addition, the Center also provides services to Penn State faculty, staff, alumni, and the community.

Actions and reminders

- Nomination for the USAC Staff Recognition Awards in the areas of leadership, excellence, and morale are [now open](#). Nominations are due by March 1st.
- USAC is accepting applications for new members. More information is available on the [USAC website](#). Applications are due by March 31st.
- 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 Thursday, March 16th, 2023.

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 updated 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

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.

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