

## University Staff Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Brief July & August 2022

Council members attend monthly meetings which are not open to the public. This brief highlights those topics not of a confidential nature which may be shared widely with staff. Any questions can be directed to the resources that are linked or to [askUSAC@psu.edu](mailto:askUSAC@psu.edu).

### Guest Speakers

The July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting was the final meeting for the USAC 2021-22 term. The luncheon featured several speakers including a COVID-19 update from Kelly Wolgast, director of the COVID-19 Operations Control Center and comments from University Provost Nick Jones, Interim Vice President for Human Resources Jennifer Wilkes, and Michel Garrett from Penn State Strategic Communications. The outgoing members of USAC were recognized for their service, including Nicole Sturges, Brendan Berthold, Brian Bittner, Margaret Buban, Matthew Davis, Adidi Etim-Hunting, Misty Patcyk, Jane Pflaum, Cynthia Pristash, and Tammy Spevak.

The USAC Annual Retreat occurred on August 17<sup>th</sup> to welcome new USAC members and focus ideas and efforts for the coming year. Opening remarks were given by President Neeli Bendapudi and the primary guest speaker was Interim Vice President for Human Resources Jennifer Wilkes. The remainder of the meeting focused on team building and development of new ideas.

### Committee Updates

- The Awards Committee held the USAC Awards ceremony on June 10<sup>th</sup>.
- The Communications Committee completed a [press release focused on the new USAC leadership](#), which was published on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The USAC monthly brief for June was also completed and distributed.
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee held listening sessions for the Penn State community on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Discussions are underway for an additional listening session.
- The Membership and Elections Committee welcomes eleven members for the new academic year.
- The Outreach Committee held its last University-wide outreach meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

### Actions and reminders

The winter break schedule for 2022 [was clarified](#) according to an updated version of [HR34](#). The days off include December 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and January 2, 2023.

### Next Council meeting

The next USAC meeting is Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

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### Little known facts or benefits:

Penn State's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers many benefits for employees **and** their immediate and extended families. In addition to counseling and health services, the plan also aids with childcare and eldercare issues, financial and legal services as well as time management and relocation support to name a few. General information about EAP can be accessed via <https://hr.psu.edu/health-matters/employee-assistance-program>.

For more comprehensive information, create an account on the Health Advocate website, <https://members.healthadvocate.com/>, and learn more about the full array of benefits available to you

### 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

- Recognize a fellow Penn Stater for a job well done by submitting a "[WE ARE](#)" shout out in Penn State Today
- Penn State employees can obtain at-home COVID tests for free. More information can be found in the [PSU COVID-19 Testing and Support website](#)
- Find updated COVID-19 information at <https://virusinfo.psu.edu/>
- Don't miss important announcements and news, sign up for the Penn State Today daily news update <https://news.psu.edu/>

### What is USAC and Member Benefits

University Staff Advisory Council consists of dedicated staff who act in an advisory capacity to the 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 president and their administration through the vice president of human resources and accepts new members annually.

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

Contact us: [askusac@psu.edu](mailto:askusac@psu.edu)

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

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