

University Staff Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Brief June 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.

Guest Speakers

At the June 15th meeting, the University Staff Advisory Council (USAC) was joined by Marie Sullivan from the Office of Planning, Assessment, and Institutional Research for a brief on the Middle States Commission on Higher Education (MSCHE) self-study process. The two year study, which will run from 2022 to 2024, "requires institutions to engage in a comprehensive and reflective assessment process to evaluate educational quality and the institution's success in meeting its mission." More information on how to get involved can be found at <https://opair.psu.edu/accreditation/self-study/>.

At a special meeting on June 16th, USAC was joined by Provost Nick Jones and Kelly Wolgast, Penn State's Director of COVID-19 Operations Control Center, for an update on COVID policies for the fall semester. Per the update, Penn State will be encouraging students to bring their own masks and rapid tests with them this fall, although testing will be available through University Health Services. Penn State will not provide COVID testing for employees. Masking requirements will continue to follow CDC guidance. The most up-to-date information can be found at <https://virusinfo.psu.edu/>.

Committee Updates

- The Awards Committee held the USAC Awards ceremony in Old Main on June 10th. The 2022 USAC Award recipients selected were Jane Pflaum, Sherri Gilliland, and Maria Pilar M. Kim.
- The Communications Committee distributed the May brief. A press release focused on the USAC Staff Awards was published on June 13th.
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee held listening sessions for the Penn State community on February 23rd and 24th. Discussions are underway for an additional listening session.
- The Membership and Elections Committee has selected eleven new members for the 2022-2023 academic year. Following the adoption of a new nomination and election process, new USAC committee chairs for 2022-2023 were elected at the USAC meeting on June 15th.
- The Outreach Committee held a University-wide outreach meeting on May 12th.

Actions and reminders

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

Penn State's zoom [webinar capacity decreased to 500 attendees](#) for most users starting on July 1st.

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

Contact us: askusac@psu.edu

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

Connect with us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8992042/>, [Yammer](#)
or [Instagram](#)

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Little known facts or benefits:

Access to AncestryLibrary.com

Penn State staff can access the AncestryLibrary.com database with their Access ID. To access this database, visit <https://libraries.psu.edu/> and from the Databases A-Z list click on the Ancestry Library Edition link.

Next Council meeting

The next USAC meeting is Wednesday, July 20th, 2022.

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.

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