

University Staff Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Brief May 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 May 18 meeting, the University Staff Advisory Council (USAC) was joined by two University Fellows, Carrie Jackson and Erica Smithwick, who were seeking feedback on a variety of questions related to working at Penn State. Questions posed to USAC members included describing struggles that staff face, things that hinders one's ability for promotion, and the traits of a good manager.

Committee Updates

- The Awards Committee has selected the recipients of the USAC Staff Awards. The USAC Awards Ceremony is scheduled for June 10.
- The Communications Committee distributed the April brief. The next press release will be focused on the USAC Staff Awards and will be sent out following the ceremony on June 10.
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee held listening sessions for the Penn State community on February 23 and 24. Discussions are underway for an additional listening session.
- The Membership and Elections Committee is currently working to select thirteen new members from the thirty-eight applicants for the 2022-2023 academic year. Elections held after the May USAC meeting resulted in Rachel Galloway being elected as chair-elect and Nivedita Nagachar as secretary-elect. Following the adoption of a new nomination and election process for the selection of committee chairs, the call for nominations has been sent out and elections will take place in June.
- The Outreach Committee held a University-wide outreach meeting on May 12.
- USAC has representation on the search for the new VP of Human Resources.
- USAC recently sponsored two professional development opportunities: one on May 2 titled "Search Inside Yourself" and another on May 24 titled "Five Characteristics of a Championship Culture."

Actions and reminders

Penn State announced in May that beginning in 2023, the University will observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day and the Juneteenth National Independence Day as official University holidays. See the [Penn State news article](#) to learn more.

Penn State is [launching a new diversity education pilot program](#) "BUILD @ Penn State," which stands for Broadening Understanding and Inclusion through Learning and Dialogue. The pilot program will run from May 16 through July 8 with participation from select units across the University, and then will launch University-wide for the fall 2022 semester.

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/>, or [Yammer](#)

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Little known facts or benefits:

On-Demand Learning Opportunities

Penn State, in partnership with LinkedIn Learning and Skillssoft, offer a large library of online courses to explore on the [On-Demand Learning website from PSU Human Resources](#)

Next Council meeting

The next USAC meeting is Wednesday, June 15, 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 his administration through the vice president of human resources and accepts new members annually.

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