

University Staff Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Brief September 2022

Council members attend monthly meetings which 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 September 15th meeting, the council was briefed by Sherry Borden, Christy Helms, Stephanie Varholak, and Dana Holter on the new [Flexible Work Arrangements policy](#). The council also reviewed, finalized, and voted to update the USAC Bylaws.

Committee Updates

- The Awards Committee held the USAC Awards ceremony on June 10th.
- The Communications Committee is working on a press release recognizing recent outgoing members and new members. The [USAC website](#) was updated to include the new USAC members. The USAC monthly brief for July and August was also completed and distributed.
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee welcomed several new members to the committee and is looking at ideas for the upcoming year.
- The Membership and Elections Committee welcomes eleven members for the new academic year.
- The Outreach Committee is planning several travel meetings for the upcoming year. Council members will have the option to travel to varying Penn State locations for each travel meeting. The October meeting will be at Penn State Hazelton.

Actions and reminders

- Starting January 2023, Penn State will partner with Highmark for benefits. Additional information is available in this [Penn State News article](#).
- [Benefits Open Enrollment](#) for 2023 will begin Tuesday, November 1 and run through Friday, November 18.
- As a member of the Penn State community, you are encouraged to report potential issues and/or raise questions if you learn about something that might not be consistent 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, October 20th, 2022.

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Little known facts or benefits:

You can send a unique gift of [Penn State Berkey Creamery](#) ice cream or specialty items to friends and family. Your ice cream cooler will be packed with dry ice and insulated to withstand 48 hours of travel. All you have to do is choose the flavors and get all the credit!

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 is offering [flu clinics at all campuses](#)
- 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

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

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