



## University Staff Advisory Council Meeting Brief and Updates June 2024

This brief highlights topics that should be shared widely with staff. Any questions can be directed to the linked resources or to [askUSAC@psu.edu](mailto:askUSAC@psu.edu). For information on USAC, the Voice for Penn State Staff, visit the [USAC website](#).

### June Meeting Recap

The University Staff Advisory Council (USAC) general council meeting on June 18 was the final meeting of the 2023-2024 term. Before the meeting, USAC hosted a luncheon during which members had conversations with university leadership, including President Neeli Bendapudi, interim Executive Vice President and Provost Tracy Langkilde, and Senior Vice President for Finance & Business/Treasurer Sara Thorndike. Following the luncheon, the meeting began with updates on the progress of the annual report and the HR Mentoring Program working group. The majority of the meeting involved a final discussion of the recently updated [USAC bylaws](#). The USAC Bylaws committee is charged with reviewing and updating the bylaws every two years. Over the past year, the committee has simplified the primary bylaws document and created a corresponding procedural guidelines document that outlines additional details and provides increased flexibility for future updates to those procedures. The USAC general council voted in favor of approving the updated bylaws document.

### Committee Updates

- **Communications** – The committee completed updates to the [USAC website](#), made multiple posts on USAC's social media channels, and drafted the monthly brief. The committee is also drafting press releases on the year end and the new membership model, as well as working on the annual report.
- **Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging** – Transition processes are taking place with the University Equity Leadership Council (UELC) to facilitate future interaction.
- **Logistics** – The committee assisted the Outreach and Engagement Committee with the community engagement meeting on June 20.
- **Outreach and Engagement** – The committee prepared for and held the final Regional Engagement meeting at the Beaver campus on June 20. Staff representatives from the Beaver, Erie, Fayette, Greater Allegheny, New Kensington, and Shenango Campuses attended.
- **Multiple Committees** – Evaluation and analysis of data from the 2024 listening sessions was completed. The USAC officers presented a summary of the listening session data and focus groups to the President's Council and the Academic Leadership Council (ALC). In July, they will present that data to the HR Leadership team.

### Outgoing USAC Members

USAC would like to express gratitude to these outgoing members for their time and contributions:

- Stephanie Andaloro, assistant registrar, Penn State Wilkes-Barre
- Terra Ingram, administrative support coordinator, College of Agricultural Sciences
- Mary Ohashi, inclusion, equity & diversity office coordinator, Gender Equity Center, Student Affairs
- Susan Bedsworth Warner, development communications specialist, College of Agricultural Sciences
- Craig Praul, Genomics Core Facility director, Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences

### **Staff Facts or Benefits Highlight:** *PA Farm Marker Finder*

Pennsylvania leads the nation in the number of farms that sell direct to the consumer, and an online Farm Market Finder is available through Penn State Extension to help identify locations near you.

Check out the [interactive map](#) that allows users to search for farmers markets, on-farm retail markets, and public markets or all three. Click on the dots to find more information on each location.

### **Important News, Updates, Reminders**

- **Are You Participating in the Summer Prompt Challenge?**

The Commonwealth Campus Instructional Design (CCID) is hosting the Summer AI Prompt Challenge, where staff and faculty explore the incredible capabilities of Microsoft Copilot. Until August 9, participants receive weekly prompts related to course design, student support, and professional development. Discover how Microsoft Copilot can enhance your workflow and productivity and share your Copilot-generated prompts and connect with fellow faculty and staff. Learn more at

<https://pennstateoffice365.sharepoint.com/sites/Summer2024PromptChallenge>

- **Spotted Lanternflies**

The 2024 Spotted Lanternfly inspection season is upon us. In compliance with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Spotted Lanternfly Quarantine, please be sure that you are completing the required Spotted Lanternfly inspections. The only addition to this year's quarantine zone is **Greene County**. Find more information on [Penn State's Spotted Lanternfly webpage](#).

### **Valuable Links**

- Recognize a fellow Penn Stater by submitting a "[WE ARE](#)" shout out in Penn State Today
- Don't miss important announcements and news from [Penn State Today](#)
- Show a colleague how much you appreciate their efforts with a [Positive Paw](#)

### **About USAC**

The 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.

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

USAC Website: <https://hr.psu.edu/usac>

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