



University Staff Advisory Council Meeting Brief and Updates for Staff September 2024

September 2024 General Council Meeting Recap

- Christy Helms, senior director of talent management, and Jennifer Pritts, senior director of compensation, presented the new staff promotion process.
 - Communications with stakeholders started in September, and more information will be released later in October.
 - The promotion process will be incorporated into the annual workforce planning cycle.
 - A Promotion Process Toolkit will be released to support managers.
- Renata Engel, vice provost for Online Education, and Elizabeth Wright, regional chancellor, who serve as project leads, provided updates on the Academic Portfolio and Program Review (APPR).
 - The stated goal is to build on our strengths as a university and remain a student-centric institution with a comprehensive and cohesive academic portfolio that meets our educational mission and aligns with students' preferences, societal and workforce needs, and Penn State's research strengths and priorities.
 - Groups being engaged include Faculty Senate, the Graduate Council, University Staff Advisory Council, and leadership groups such as the Academic Leadership Council. View [the website](#) for more information and to sign-up for the monthly newsletter.

Penn State Western Region Travel Engagement Meeting – November 8th

- When: Friday, November 8, 10 am – 2pm
- Where: Penn State Behrend with a virtual option. [Register here](#) by Thursday 10/31.

- Who: Any staff members from New Kensington, Beaver, Shenango, Behrend, Great Allegheny, Dubois, and Fayette who participate in a local staff advisory council or are interested in starting one.
- What: Conversation around the staff experience and updates including USAC's restructuring efforts and continued support of local staff advisory council establishment will be discussed.
- Why: Travel engagement meetings focus on enhancing USAC's connection with local Staff Advisory Councils (SACs) to increase collaboration and enhance understanding of opportunities for, and challenges faced by staff across the commonwealth.

New USAC Membership Model

- Under the [new membership model](#), staff from each Commonwealth Campus (20), academic college (14), and identified administrative and academic units (23) will elect one full-time staff member to serve a three-year term on USAC.
- The new model will roll out over two years to stagger membership terms.
- Identified units with an existing local staff advisory council(s) will elect one member to serve beginning in July 2025, and the remaining units will elect one member to serve beginning in July 2026.
- For information on how to establish a local staff advisory council email askUSAC@psu.edu. More information will be added to the USAC website soon.

USAC In the News

- [USAC advances strategic priorities, efforts to expand representation](#)
- [Penn State defeats WVU in staff council sponsored blood drive competition](#)

Send a colleague some kudos with a “[We ARE](#)” Shout Out in Penn State Today.

Or show a colleague your appreciation by requesting [Positive Paw](#) sticky notes.

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.

Meeting Briefs highlight topics to share widely with staff. For information on USAC, visit the [USAC website](#), follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [Instagram](#), or contact us at askUSAC@psu.edu.