



## University Staff Advisory Council Monthly Brief

Sorry we missed you: See the [March Monthly Brief online on the USAC website](#).

### April General Council Meeting Highlights

- **Employee Health Plan Updates** – Jennifer Wilkes, vice president for human resources and chief human resources officer, and Jill Musser, senior director of benefits, shared updates on the University’s ongoing efforts to manage rising health care costs while continuing to support employees. Currently, more than 17,500 employees are enrolled in a Penn State health plan (either the PPO Plan or High-Deductible Savings Plan). Penn State remains committed to its cost-sharing model, with the University covering 75% of health care costs and employees contributing 25%. Beginning September 1, 2025, Penn State will introduce [Scripta, a free prescription cost-saving service](#) available to employees and their covered dependents enrolled in a Penn State health plan.

### Updates from USAC

- **USAC Strategic Planning Process** – The draft strategic plan has been finalized and is currently under review by USAC committee chairs and officers. A vote on the new plan will take place at the May General Council meeting.
- **USAC Annual Summit, June 11, 2025** – This daylong event will focus on team-building activities for USAC members and local staff advisory councils. The keynote address will be delivered by Nalini Krishnankutty, Program Manager for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging in Penn State Human Resources.
- **New Membership Model** – Details about USAC’s updated membership model are now available on the [USAC website](#). A list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) is also provided to support understanding of the changes.
- **Listing of Local Staff Advisory Councils** – Employees can now view a complete listing of established Local Staff Advisory Councils (SACs) on the [USAC Local SAC webpage](#).

### Ways to Engage USAC

- **USAC Community Engagement Group (MS Teams)** – The Microsoft Teams group serves as a space for staff employees to connect, share best practices, and learn more about Local Staff Advisory Councils. [Join the USAC Community Engagement Group](#).

- **USAC Anonymous Feedback Form** – Full-time staff employees are welcome to anonymously reach out to USAC with feedback or comments via the [webform on our website](#).

## Local Staff Advisory Council Spotlight

Penn State Schuylkill Staff Advisory Council (STAC) has been busy collaborating and connecting this past year with monthly lunch and learns, new initiatives such as staff awards, summer walking series, campus coffee rounds, and more. Their lunch and learns, with lunch provided by the chancellor, featured DIY classes hosted by Penn State Master Gardeners as well as classes and information sessions on work-life balance, heart health, and stress management featuring campus or university resources. Their upcoming plans include a collaboration with Human Resources to host a Change Management Workshop as well as the implementation of a new strategic plan.

Interested in spotlighting your campus/college's Staff Advisory Council? Contact us at [askUSAC@psu.edu](mailto:askUSAC@psu.edu).

## Employee Resources

- Blue365 gives those enrolled in the University's health care plan access to discounts on items related to fitness, personal care, healthy eating, financial health, personal lifestyle and wellness. [Sign up online for the Blue365 program](#).
- SupportLinc Employee Assistance Program (EAP) offers services like in-person and video counseling (5 free sessions per person per issue) and offers on-demand educational videos on topics such as thriving at work, personal growth, leading people, sleep and rest, and grief and loss. Visit [this website](#) and use group code **pennstate** to create an account. Additional details are on the [Penn State HR SupportLinc website](#).
- Updates related to executive actions issued beginning January 2025 can be found on the [Government and Community Relations website](#).
- Upcoming APPR Insight Sessions scheduled for May 29 and June 26, both from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. on [Teams](#).

**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.

Visit the [USAC News & Updates site](#) to view previous meeting highlights.

Connect with us: [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), [askUSAC@psu.edu](mailto:askUSAC@psu.edu).