

## University Staff Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Brief January 2023

Council members attend monthly meetings that 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](mailto:askUSAC@psu.edu).

### Guest Speakers

At the January 19<sup>th</sup> USAC council meeting, USAC members were joined by two speakers.

- The first speaker was Dr. Jennifer Hamer, Special Advisor to the President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (DEIB). Dr. Hamer spoke to USAC about a new DEIB initiative to complete a comprehensive inventory of how PSU does DEIB across the university system. Her priorities include 1) helping to close the racial, gender, disability gaps in the student populations; 2) working to close the gaps in faculty diversity, rank, and retention; and 3) addressing the diversity of staff, professional development, and career opportunities available to them.
- The second speaker was Jennifer Wilkes, Vice President of Human Resources. In USAC's first meeting with Jennifer since she has assumed the role as VP of HR, she answered questions generated during the USAC 2022 retreat and provided updates on Human Resources. Questions included topics such as building trust, organizational culture shifts, compensation modernization, and addressing inequities across units.

### Committee Updates

- The Awards Committee is planning the USAC awards ceremony for May 2023. The committee updated the nomination forms on the [Staff Recognition page on the USAC website](#) and completed a [press release](#) on the awards.
- The Communications Committee published three press releases on the USAC staff awards, [USAC presents seminar](#), and Listening Sessions announcement. Committee members have been updating the information on USAC's social media channels and made change to the [USAC website](#).
- The Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity Committee is preparing for two [Listening Sessions](#) to collect feedback regarding staff morale on February 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- The Logistics and Events Committee hosted the first seminar of the "USAC Presents" series on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The topic of the first session was [Hidden gems of the University Libraries](#). The four-part "USAC Presents" series will encompass multiple topics to introduce employees to things they might not know about Penn State. In addition, the committee is continuing to help coordinate logistics for USAC's upcoming travel meetings and the USAC Summit in March.
- The Membership and Elections Committee is preparing to open USAC membership applications for the 2023-24 academic year. The committee has updated the application and is preparing a press release.
- The Outreach Committee has been busy planning [several travel meetings](#) for the upcoming year. Planning has also begun for the USAC Summit, which is slated for March 30, 2023 at the Technical Support Building.

### Actions and reminders

- Applications for the USAC Staff Recognition Awards in the areas of leadership, excellence, and morale

USAC Website: <https://hr.psu.edu/university-staff-advisory-council>

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

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### Little known facts or benefits:

#### Penn State Health OnDemand

The Penn State Health OnDemand app offers patients options for care from wherever they are, including COVID-19 services and urgent care. More info is available on the [Penn State Health OnDemand](#) website.

are [now open](#). Applications are due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

- USAC will be accepting applications for new members. More information is available on the [USAC website](#).
- The Penn State community is encouraged to report potential issues about behavior that is inconsistent 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, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### 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

- Show a colleague how much you appreciate their efforts with a [Positive Paw](#)
- Recognize a fellow Penn Stater by submitting a ["WE ARE"](#) shout out in Penn State Today
- Find updated COVID-19 information at <https://virusinfo.psu.edu/>
- Don't miss important announcements and news from *Penn State Today* <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 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.

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