

## University Staff Advisory Council Monthly Meeting Brief November 2022

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 November 17<sup>th</sup> USAC council meeting, USAC members were joined by Michael Wade Smith, Penn State's Senior Vice President & Chief of Staff to the President. Michael joined the University in March, and this was USAC's first time to meet and talk with Michael. He briefed the council on his role at Penn State, his background and past experience, and answered a variety of questions asked by USAC members. Questions included topics such as staff perspectives, how his past experiences could apply at Penn State, and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB).

### Committee Updates

- The Awards Committee has begun scheduling and planning for the awards ceremony next spring. The committee updated the nomination form and is working on an announcement for the USAC Awards.
- The Communications Committee completed a [press release](#) highlighting the annual report, members, and bylaws. Committee members have been updating the information on USAC's social media channels and the [USAC website](#), where a new [Positive Paws](#) page was added. In addition, at the latest meeting a discussion was held regarding new ways for USAC to engage the Penn State community.
- The Inclusion, Equity, and Diversity Committee is discussing initiatives for the upcoming year, including a Listening Session in the next few months.
- The Logistics and Events Committee is looking into speakers for USAC's speaker series, "USAC Presents." The tentative topics will be on introducing employees to things they might not know about Penn State. This is expected to be a four-part spring 2023 series. Watch Penn State Today for announcements. 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 discussed the onboarding process and potential changes to the interview process.
- 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

- The winter break schedule for 2022 [was clarified](#) earlier this year according to an updated version of [HR34](#). The days off include December 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and January 2, 2023.
- Starting January 2023, Penn State will [partner with Highmark for employee benefits](#).
- 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.
- Penn State announced the [procedures for winter weather cancellations for the 2022-23 season](#).

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:

#### Corporate Shopping Membership

All Penn State employees are eligible for discounts by registering at the Corporate Shopping portal, which features more than 250 top national retailers. Lifetime registration is free; simply use the special [Penn State link](#).

### Next Council meeting

The next USAC meeting is Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### 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 on 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 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.

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