

UI Staff Council
Wednesday, September 13, 2023
2:30 – 4:30 pm
2520D UCC & Zoom

Present

Jerusalem Alleyne, Neda Barrett, Brian Baxter, Amanda Bibb, Maria Bruno, Robert Butler, Bradley Carson, Brett Cloyd, Dawn Coffman, Monica Dreyer-Rossi, Richard Dvorsky, Chandler Easley, Carl Follmer, Jadvyga Gerasimovic, Joseph Herwehe, Anne Hinkle, Michele Hogue, Gregory Hopson, Jordan Immerfall, Makur Jain, Hilary Jensen, James Jorris, Jackie Kleppe, Shuhui Lin, Sam Mitchell, Brian Morelli, Evans Ochola, Jamie O'Meara, Sam Patel, Tammy Paulus, Yelena Perkhounkova, Ashley Peters, Molly Rechkemmer, Vickie Roesner, Rubia Ruiz, Teri Schnelle, Tony Senio, Sonia Slevinski, Warren Staal, Kathleen Tandy, Bridget Toomey, Santhana Velupillai, Heath Vignes, Darrelle Wilkinson, Jennifer Yoder.

Absent

Josey Bathke, Nima Chaudhary, Erika Holm-Brown, Molly James, Lindsay Lansberry, Sarah Livesay, Mary Shumaker, David Stenersen, Jessica Welter, Donna Wong-Gibbons.

Administrative Liaisons

Kellie Digmann, Cheryl Reardon.

Presenters

Steph Beecher, Erin Litton, Rebecca Olson, Dana Stafford.

Guests

Elizabeth Aslan, Bellinda Assemien, Bailey Badker, Nancy Bell, Jeremy Breher, Dawn Cochran, Kerry Cooper, Lisa Ellenson, Pete Forkenbrock, Diane Fountain, Deb Henricks, Molly Kucera, Cassandra Lacina, Jon Ladage, Crystal Lewis, Amy J. Mattix, Tara Maurer, Lydia Messer, Jessica Muschaweck, Robin Norfleet, Sarah Sapouckey, Cheri Smith, Eileen Sullivan, Cameron Vinsand.

Minutes

August Staff Council minutes approved unanimously with no changes.

Meeting

Opening notes – Jorris

Jorris welcomes Bridget Toomey, the new Staff Council Function Representative for Behavior Health; Health Care. Toomey is a Health Care Services Manager/Assistant Department Director in ObGyn.

Council Communication Updates – Jorris

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- The IowaNow webpage has been redesigned for faculty and staff. Go to: Now.UIowa.edu
- The next Discover Your University is on Sept. 21. Go to: HR.UIowa.edu/discover.

Council Celebration Updates – Jorris

Staff Council has been busy volunteering and celebrating UI staff, including at Ragbrai, OnIowa, State Fair, Science Thursday.

Council Collaboration Updates – Jorris

- President Barbara Wilson has charged Staff Council to increase United Way giving across the UI. Staff are being encouraged to donate or volunteer.
- Staff Council members are invited to participate in Big 10 Collaboration quarterly meetings. These meetings connect staff from schools across the Big 10 to share ideas, learn best practices and build collaborations. Hopson is leading UI's participation and can be contacted to be added to meeting invites.
- Jorris provided updates on major facilities. The Mayflower residence hall is being sold due to distance from campus, lack of parking, and deferred maintenance. There have been several showings but no formal bids. UI's bid for Mercy Iowa City is in the Court's hands; other firms can still bid. The North Liberty Medical Campus construction is on schedule for completion in summer 2025.
- Jorris and Cloyd are leading Staff Council participation in a joint session of shared governance bodies. Staff are invited to attend the meeting on Oct. 10, 5-7 p.m. at IMU 2nd Floor International Ballroom.

HR Update – Benefits and Health Equity Overview – Olson and Stafford

Open enrollment for 2024 benefits begins on Nov. 1 and closes at 5 p.m. on Nov. 15. Benefits selections become effective on Jan. 1, 2024. Open enrollment is the only time annually to make changes to insurance, outside of major life events such as child birth, marriage, death, divorce, etc. More information to come in an email on Oct. 10. The two programs are UI Select and UI Choice. UI Select offers lower premium cost, higher out-of-pocket costs, and a traditional deductible plan. UI Choice offers higher premium cost, lower out-of-pocket costs, deductible only for inpatient hospital stays, and covers providers nationwide. Find side-by-side comparisons of the plans at hr.uiowa.edu/benefits/employee-benefits/regular-faculty-staff-benefits/employee-health-insurance/uiselect-and-uichoice.

HealthEquity was installed as the new flexible spending account plan administrator in 2023. HealthEquity manage the review, approval, and payment of approved claims and ensures the plan complies with IRS rules and regulations related to FSA. Selling points include 24/7 customer services, faster claims processing, and a HealthEquity Visa card to pay for services. Over 4,600 participants have used their VISA card of the 6,300 participants who have activated it. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. More resources are available at <https://hr.uiowa.edu/benefits/employee-benefits/regular-faculty-staff-benefits/flexible-spending-accounts> and <https://www.healthequity.com/hsa-qme/>.

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Wellbeing Update – Basic Needs and UI Food Pantry – Litton and Beecher

The UI Food Pantry has been relocated to the former Hills Bank location on the ground floor of IMU, which is a much more visible location than the previous space. The space looks like a marketplace. The goal is to bring programming and resources to the space. The previous space is being used for storage. Bringing programming and resources to the space. A goal of the Food Pantry is to increase food security. The Food Pantry is heavily used and increasing (approximately 100,000 pounds of food distributed each of the past two years) with demand from all sectors of campus (faculty/staff, 22%, graduate and professional students, 66%, and 12% undergraduate students). The Pantry strives for fresh produce, avoiding canned foods, whole foods, and recognizing changing preferences with holidays/seasons. The Pantry faces barriers including funding to meet demand, perishable items are hard to keep fresh, and influx during summer.

Calls to action to staff including donating, volunteering, and sharing the need with local units and teams. More information is available at <https://imu.uiowa.edu/imu-services/food-pantry-iowa/donate-pantry>

UI Health & Well-Being Fair – Immerfall

UISC will staff a booth at the event and is seeking volunteers. All staff are encouraged to attend. The events 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Nov. 1, 2023, on the UI Fieldhouse Main Deck. A sign up link for volunteering will be sent to SC members.

DEI Committee Updates – Jensen and Roesner

Be aware of upcoming DEI events on campus. Events can be found at <https://diversity.uiowa.edu/Celebrations>.

- Latinx Heritage Month is in September. Find details at <https://multicultural.uiowa.edu/celebrations/latinx-heritage-month>.
- National Voter Registration Day is Sept. 19, 2023. 1 in 4 Americans are not registered to vote.
- Black Excellence Week: African American House has events planned, along with Film Scene.

Community Outreach Committee Update – Hinkle

Staff Council staffed a booth at Science Thursday on Aug. 31. Staff are asked to record volunteer contributions at <https://workflow.uiowa.edu/entry/new/4485/>.

Upcoming volunteer opportunities include:

- HopeWalk 2023 for suicide awareness on Sept. 16, 2023, at Cherry Hill Park in Cedar Rapids.

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- Shelter House of Iowa City is looking for volunteers to help clean up, set up, and distribute food/drinks at its annual BBQ Bash fundraiser. The event is Sept. 22, 2023, 5-7 p.m., at Johnson County Fairgrounds. Sign up at <https://shelterhouseiowa.org/bbq-bash/>.
- UI Homecoming Parade is on Oct. 6, 2023, meet at 5:45p. Seeking SC members to march. Family and friends are welcome to join. Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094DABA922A1FAC52-homecoming>
- Adopt-A-Highway is on Oct. 26, 2023. Time and location to be determined. UISC manages a stretch near Kent Park. Picnic lunch provided. Family and friends are welcome.
- Volunteer through United Way at <https://unitedwayjc.galaxydigital.com/> or [September/October Volunteer Express Newsletter](#).

Bylaws: First Reading of Suggested Bylaws Changes - Schnelle

Staff Council bylaws call for a 215 to 1 ratio of staff to representatives. There is a recommendation on the table to update Staff Council bylaws to meet this standard by adding two additional members. The proposal is to revise Article III, Section 1 to read as follows: “The Council will be comprised of 57 members (see Table 1): 37 representing Job Functions/combined Job Function Categories, herein referred...” and replace Table 1 with a new table reflecting updated staff numbers. The website must also be updated.

The proposal received a first reading. The proposal will receive a second reading and vote at the October meeting.

Council Corner Follow Up – Jorris

Elevate:

- Vacation payout questions. This was relayed to HR, which created a FAQ for its website.
- DEI policies. This is in a holding pattern pending review by Regent.

Explore:

- Tuition Assistance. Data looks strong to make a case to continue increased funding for the Tuition Assistance Program.
- Parking sharing and HR leave related issues are still being explored.

Educate:

- There are upcoming opportunities to apply for P3 Funding.

Adjournment

Motion by Jain. Seconded by Bibb. Jorris adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting

October 11, 2023
2:30-4:30 pm
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