

UI Staff Council
Wednesday, November 13, 2024
2:30-4:30 pm
2520-D UCC & Zoom

Present

Marie Adams, Jerusalem Alleyne, Neda Barrett, Josey Bathke, Amanda Bibb, Amir Bozorgzadeh, Maria Bruno, Bradley Carson, Nima Chaudhary, Monica Dreyer Rossi, Richard Dvorsky, Shawn Eyestone, Michael Fletcher, Hunter Floyd, Glen Fuhrmeister, Ashley Glassberg-Nazette, Brittany Grabe, David Hartley, Anne Hinkle, Michele Hogue, Erika Holm-Brown, Griffin Idleman, Jordan Immerfall, Molly James, Hilary Jensen, James Jorris, Lindsay Lansberry, Liz Lara, Ann Lawler, Veronica LynnLee, Cathy McGinnis, Sam Mitchell, Brian Morelli, Jamie O'Meara, Evans Ochola, Sam Patel, Alex Paternostro, Tammy Paulus, Ashley Peters, Vickie Roesner, Kayla Rojas, Rubia Ruiz, Mel Sanders, Eric Schnedler, Teri Schnelle, Tony Senio, Lin Shuhui, David Stenersen, Sara Sullivan, Kathleen Tandy, Bridget Toomey, Santhana Velupillai, Heath Vignes, Adam Walsh, Jessica Welter, Casey Westlake, Donna Wong-Gibbons.

Not Present

Brett Cloyd, Sarah Livesay, Jenni Yoder.

Administrative Liaisons

Kellie Digmann

Guests

Amy Mattix, Alicia Peden, Ali Nelson, Barry Schreier, Bob Manders, Brad F, Christa Venenga, Christal Quigley, Christy Bardell, Courtney Hoffman, Deb Henricks, Denise Schieffer, Dr Mike, Eileen Sullivan, Erin Litton, Erika Jacobo, Esther Baker, Hannah Shelton-Hauck, Jodi Bauers, Julie Hartman, Kevin Zihlman, Kristine Pinter, Lissa Alton, Lily Phonphiboun, Mary Shumaker, Melanie Cuchna, Mike Weaver, Molly Rechkemmer, Nancy Kroeze, Naomi Stewart, Nikki Miller, Paige Carlson, Rachel Napoli, Sarah Maxwell Leckband, Sheryl Bass, Staci Anderson, Steph Beecher, Vicki Jaeger.

Minutes

The October Staff Council Minutes were approved.

Meeting

President James Jorris welcomed everyone to the November UI Staff Council (UISC) meeting. He reviewed the meeting protocols. Jorris motioned and James seconded approval of the October minutes. The minutes were approved. Jorris reviewed the meeting agenda.

Welcome by James Jorris, Staff Council President

Volunteer Update:

Recognized Amanda Bibb for putting in 28.5 volunteer hours.

Recognized Anne Hinkle for putting in 35.5 volunteer hours.

United Way Campaign:

Two upcoming events:

Heartlanders "Hawk-eye" Hockey Game

- Date: Friday, November 15th, 7:00 PM
- Location: Xstream Arena

UI Campus Kickoff Event

- Date: Monday, November 18th, 5:00 - 6:00 PM
- Location: Old Capitol Museum

Health Fair Highlights, Health Coaching and Resource Update by Melanie Cuchna, LiveWell Manager, University Human Resources

Cuchna provided an update on the Health and Well-Being Fair, which had over 1,000 attendees and received overwhelmingly positive feedback. The flu shot availability and chair massages were especially popular offerings. Cuchna also shared information about various well-being resources offered through their offices, including the Health Coach program, the [Well-being Toolbox](#) (a resource to help well-being leaders easily find information and resources to share with their team members), the [LiveWell Resource Library](#) for individuals, and the [Personal Health Assessment](#) (PHA). Taking time to practice your own self-care is the best starting place for encouraging a culture of well-being.

Food Pantry Overview and Fall Campaign by Steph Beecher, Basic Needs and Care Coordinator, Dean of Students Office

[The Food Pantry](#) was started in 2016 by a group of students to address food insecurity. In FY24, the pantry had about 10,000 visits from faculty, staff, and students. It offers fresh foods and vegetables, shelf-stable food items, and various household goods. The pantry has seen a large increase in visits month over month, with no signs of plateauing. The bulk of funding comes from the Undergraduate Student Government (USG). Most of the food is sourced from HACAP, a food bank in Cedar Rapids, and Table to Table in Iowa City. The pantry is always looking for donations, with the most needed items being fresh produce, whole foods, and monetary contributions. Monetary donations allow the pantry to be culturally responsive in its offerings. The pantry is largely run by student volunteers, and there is a need for additional volunteer support during academic breaks. The pantry also organizes the [Hawkeye Meal Share](#) and the [Clothing Closet](#). Hawkeye Meal Share aims to provide students facing food insecurity or emergency situations with access to nutritious meals in University Dining marketplaces by allowing undergraduate, graduate, and professional students to donate their unused guest meal swipes.

Mental Health Update by Dr. Barry Schreier, Scanlan Center

The [Scanlan Center](#) recently hosted a Pecha Kucha event, which is Japanese for “chit chat,” attracting nearly 150 attendees. This event featured a unique short story presentation style and was very well received. The Staff Council sponsored the event.

The National College Health Survey (NCH) found that 85% of faculty, staff, and students identify as flourishing in the campus environment. This finding contrasts with the prevalent narrative of a

mental health crisis, which can negatively impact the overall environment. To reframe and deconstruct this narrative, it is important to discuss both sides of the issue, normalize seeking help from support networks, and recognize that feelings are normal responses to stress, not symptoms. The Scanlan Center offers many [resources](#) to support students and staff, including workshops on Working with Students in Distress, Mindfulness and Meditation, Caring for Self While Caring for Others, and the Kognito Distress Intervention and Suicide Prevention Program.

Staff Council Election Update by Neda Barrett, Chair for Elections Committee

Barrett outlined the limitations of our current election process, including limited presentation time, information overload, recency bias, and lack of interaction. Barrett shared the Elections Committee's recommended proposal for updating our current election process. The proposed changes include:

- Each presidential candidate submitting a written statement detailing their accomplishments and goals, due no later than one month before election day. This document will be distributed to all councilors for review in advance.
- During the last Staff Council meeting of the year, each candidate will be given 5-10 minutes to respond to questions from the staff councilors. The exact time for each candidate will depend on the total number of candidates.
- Questions will be submitted to the Executive Committee ahead of time, and a representative from the Executive Committee will moderate the session.

Questions and concerns discussed in the meeting include:

- Will the written statement have a maximum length?
- Concerns about varying levels of experience creating videos.
- Does the election process need to occur in just one meeting?
- Concerns that the proposed process may be too burdensome and discourage individuals from running.
- Could we add an additional meeting focused solely on the election?
- Would like to see a written statement about why candidates are running and what they would like to focus on in terms of advocacy for staff, in addition to a presentation.

We would like Staff Councilor feedback on the proposed adjustments. Please share your feedback with Neda Barrett (neda-barrett@uiowa.edu) by the end of November 2024.

Council Corner Feedback by James Jorris, Staff Council President

The Executive Committee has been meeting weekly to review and address the feedback provided at the Councilor Corner in October. The 3 E's: Elevate, Explore, and Educate will be our guiding principles.

Key feedback themes were:

- Allowing more time for councilors to ask questions of presenters.
- Addressing the repetitive nature of repeat topics.
- Continuing the Council Corner session and finding a way to circle back with the top 3 topics discussed.
- Issues with committee chair selection and transitions.
- More opportunities to network outside of the monthly meetings.

We will send the full feedback to the staff council members for review.

Staff Council Committee Mid-Year Update

- Access, Opportunity and Diversity by Nima Chaudhary and Teri Schnelle. Chaudhary shared progress on committee goals and did the first reading of the AOD Bylaws change request. Voting to take place at the December meeting.
- Awards by Hilary Jensen. Jensen shared progress on committee goals.
- Committee on Committees by Erika Holm-Brown. Brown shared progress on committee goals.
- Communications by Brian Morelli. Morelli shared progress on committee goals.
- Community Outreach by Anne Hinkle. Hinkle shared progress on committee goals.

Details about each committee update will be shared in the post meeting packet.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by O'Meara and seconded by Chaudhary.

Jorris adjourned the meeting at 4:29 pm

Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

2:30-4:30 pm

UCC2520-D and via Zoom