

UI Staff Council Executive Committee
Wednesday, February 6, 2025
2:30 – 4:30 pm
Teams

Attendance

Present

Nima Chaudhary, Brett Cloyd, Molly James, James Jorris, Sam Mitchell, Ashley Peters, Donna Wong-Gibbons

Administrative Liaison

Kellie Digmann

Unable to Attend

Neda Barrett, David Stenersen

Guests

None

Approval of UISC Executive committee meeting minutes

Mitchell motioned and Wong-Gibbons seconded, the minutes for the following meetings were approved.

- December 9, 2024
- January 6, 2025 (regular EC meeting)
- January 14, 2025
- January 21, 2025
- January 27, 2025

Discussion topics

Staff Council Agenda Review

The Executive Committee reviewed the draft agendas for the remaining meetings for this year (through May 2025). Based on feedback, and evolving interests, some speakers were pushed back or will be asked to reduce their time allocation. Committees will be asked to give end of year updates during the May meeting. Digmann updated the agenda documents on OneNote and will contact speakers.

Staff Council Elections

Digmann shared a list of the Staff Council openings (Organizational and Functional Representatives) that will be filled with this year's elections.

Diversity Council Reorganization Discussion by Jorris

Jorris shared and reviewed the UI Division of Access, Opportunity, and Diversity's Reorganization of Campus Groups document. By February 17, 2025, the University needs to be compliant with Iowa Code Chapter 261J. He outlined the 3 categories of groups that align with the University's Engagement

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Framework: informal, participatory, and formal. Staff Council's AOD Committee does not fit into one of these groups. EC reviewed the Staff Council's AOD Committee Purpose and Scope of Concern and would like to be certain to help the University promote a welcoming and respectful environment, while ensuring legal compliance. EC would like to invite AOD Committee members to join other Staff Council Committees to help have a positive impact at the University, the community and the state of Iowa.

Jorris made a motion: "I would like to invite a vote to **pause** the University of Iowa Staff Council Access, Opportunity, and Diversity Committee, in alignment with guidance from the University of Iowa and state and national directives and invite Staff Councilors to join other Staff Council committees to support a welcoming and respectful environment at the University of Iowa. Thanks to everyone who participated in this committee and gave their time and support." Wong motioned, Mitchell seconded. The Executive Committee voted unanimously (7-0) to freeze the Staff Council Access, Opportunity, and Diversity Committee."

Commented [BC1]: EC had discussion about best term to use. "Pause" was used in messaging the Staff Council.

Jorris and Chaudhary will inquire about possible collaboration with the UI AOD Charter Committee, ask AOD for talking points about this vote and best ways to communicate to Staff Council and UI, and talk to the SC AOD committee members about the committee freeze.

Council Corner Review: Staff Council 2025 Elections by James Jorris

At the February 12th Staff Council meeting there will be a Council Corner time scheduled on the agenda. Jorris would like to invite Councilors to pose questions they would like candidates for the various open positions to answer at the May Election meeting. The Elections Committee will review the question suggestions and make decisions about which questions to ask candidates for the At Large and Officer positions. Digmann will create slides that describe the various positions so Councilors can better understand the position responsibilities.

In addition, there will be open time for Councilors to reflect on the freeze of the Staff Council AOD Committee and share information about how current events may be impacting campus work efforts.

Board of Regents April Meeting – James Jorris's remarks on behalf of Staff Council

Jorris invited EC members to contribute ideas he can use for his remarks to the Board of Regents in April. Each year, staff and faculty leaders from the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and University of Northern Iowa are invited to speak to the Board for 10-15 minutes. Jorris shared the remarks he gave last year and described last year's message as one of gratitude, as well as his personal journey with the University of Iowa, and a request for support from the Board.

Some of the ideas that were brainstormed include:

- Staff impact on students (classroom support, IT, library research assistance, dining, facilities)
- Research & Teaching
- Bleeding edge of health care and science
- Accessible health care experiences
- Serving all Iowans, all of our students
- "Better to be effective than right"
- Additional comments and suggestions are welcome – contact Jorris

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Kinnick Stadium offer for an upcoming Staff Council meeting by Tony Senio

Senio offered to host an upcoming Staff Council meeting. The EC will consider this offer at a future meeting.

Adjournment

- Mitchell motioned to adjourn; James seconded; motion carried.
- The meeting adjourned at 4:26 pm.

Next meeting: February 17, 2025, 1 pm, Teams.