

## UI Staff Council Executive Committee

Wednesday, June 6, 2025

2:30 – 4:30 pm

2520-B UCC

### Attendance

#### Present

Neda Barrett, Josey Bathke, Amanda Bibb, Hilary Jensen, James Jorris, Sam Mitchell, Ashley Peters, Mel Sanders, Bridget Toomey

#### Administrative Liaison

Kellie Digmann

#### Guests

Mike Andrews, Shelly Campo, Kevin Zihlman

### Approval of UISC Executive committee meeting minutes

#### Minutes approval:

- May 7, 2025 – UISC Executive Committee Meeting – motion by Mitchell, second by Sanders, [approved with no edits]

### Discussion topics

#### Budget Request: Coca-Cola Funds – *Ashley Peters*

This year we need to run everything by Nate Robinson, Budget Officer. Example: highway clean up, we have historically provided pizza and cookies, we will need to approve all through Robinson. We'll need to make a justification to Robinson on all budget needs/requests.

Tammy Balk | \$500 | Pharmacy Informatics Team – Epic launch Medial Center Downtown | Date of Event: 6-27-25 | Workflow ID: 15433243

- Typically, we would recommend them to go to staff appreciate grant, however the funding is exhausted for the year.
- All are in favor of approving – no hatchet throwing.
- Barrett and Jorris are meeting with Cheryl around suggested change for SC to run the program instead of UHR (Abigail Schaver)
- We would need to outline parameters, do we split evenly between healthcare and academic?

#### Staff Council Agenda Overview for Next Week – *Neda Barrett*

##### Overview of Roles and Responsibilities within the Executive Committee – *Neda Barrett*

President Barrett encouraged all to speak up, disagree and engage in conversation. As this group keeps in close contact, Kellie will send out an email to collect phone numbers to add to group text thread. We will have a standing agenda item for ideas, any moonshot idea, please bring it forward. We plan to continue council corner to provide councilors the time to get together and talk about what's going on in their areas. Last year due to events with leadership changes the executive committee met very frequently, may not need that extra time, will keep at one monthly meeting for now. President Barrett, VP Mitchell, and PP Jorris will meet with Laura McLeran, Pete Matthew and Cheryl Reardon. President Barrett outlined the honor it is to meet with President Wilson and

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Provost Kriegel monthly, this is unusual within the Big 10, it's imperative we fill up that time, make it meaningful. No formal notes are taken during those meetings.

**Planning for Upcoming Full Council Meetings – Neda Barrett**

President Barrett indicated that Cheryl Reardon has another meeting to attend and will need to be moved to first on June agenda. We talked about introductions of new councilors and executive committee. Hilary mentioned that although it would take some time thinks it would be beneficial to do some sort of ice breaker or Bingo to get to know all councilors, not just new councilors. Agreed we wouldn't have sufficient time in June meeting; however we will make the time at the July retreat as it's a closed session.

Volunteer of the month: Molly or Anne will talk about what volunteering means, how to log hours. Joni will provide updates on Well-Being and Mental Health initiatives. Jamie Jorgensen will present updates on UI policy. Will provide time for council corners.

Q: Toomey asked why we ask non-SC to leave at that point.

A: Often times there may be press present. It helps when there are smaller groups, allows more voices to speak up. Smaller groups also help staff feel more comfortable.

Discussed potential speakers for each meeting. This year we want to have more interaction with speakers, allow for question and answer sections. Sean Hesler will join a meeting to present on tuition assistance.

**Staff Council Presidential Vision for 2025-26 – Neda Barrett**

President Barrett presented her vision for the 2025-2026 SC year – Leading with Purpose and Compassion in an Age of Disruption. President Barrett started out focusing on the power of community, the importance of camaraderie and celebrations, where staff support and grow with each other. She outlined a people centered vision where SC represents over 9300 non-bargaining staff members. President Barrett addressed the challenges we're all facing with burnout, work-life balance and feeling disconnected in your work. Although there are challenges, she plans to focus on the opportunity to make change with our ever changing higher ed landscape, where we have to reimagine how to work and collaborate together. She highlighted UI's unique strengths with highest student retention in Big Ten, being a nationally recognized university in research and innovation and celebrating life-changing work across disciplines. President Barrett wants to continue to focus on advocacy and action, to help ensure all staff voices are being heard. She promises to show commitment to the future, by leading with heart and promising to listen and lead.

SCEC discussed Working at Iowa survey, deficiencies. Seeing through those surveys that staff want to be recognized for the work they're doing, how do we tie in questions?

Q: how much impact do we have on the specific questions in the survey?

A: UIHC contacts are Linda Wilson and John Heinemann

Q: why isn't there a question about parking in the survey?

Comments: parking is always been a struggle. How do we approach it? Huge benefits to have leadership present. Sparked conversation around respectful and professionalism within the SC meetings. There are times when questions and comments during SC meetings may be too in the weeds or specific to one person, take those offline. Send reminders about being respectful in all interactions. Encourage staff with questions to come with a possible solution.

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SCEC discussed a committee about well-being or work life balance. Can we tie this into all the committees somehow?

VP Mitchell introduced a new topic: Tips/Tricks/Reminders. Through her work on the communications committee and time on exec it became apparent that some newer and older councilors are still a bit unsure on what they should be doing. Each month we'll have time for tips/tricks/reminders. For June meeting she will provide councilors with a next action on setting up Outlook and sending out introduction email to your constituents.

Mitchell proposed this new topic as a way to tie actions to the goals of the council. Recommend that function reps meet together and send a joint introduction email, take a group photo to send out. Emails throughout the year: initial email, possibly offer office hours

**Research Integrity and Security Office (RISO)** – Mike Andrews, Dr. Shelly Campo, and Kevin Zihlman

Andrews provided overview of RISO and updates on Ethics in Research policy (27.6). They have drafted and revised several versions of the UI Ethics in Research Policy with feedback from OVPR, OGC, Provost office, UI Research Council and Faculty Senate. Health and Human Services (HHS) requires policy be updated by 1/1/2026.

Last update of this policy was in August 2014. Current version centered around US Public Health Service (PHS) due to large portion of UI's research coming from PHS funding. Current policy contains language around conducting a research misconduct proceeding. The updated policy will be more flexible regarding federal funding agency requirements.

The UI is required to update, clarify or add new definitions, including Research Integrity Officer (RIO), situations where multiple 'respondents' are involved in research misconduct, clarify language around 'subsequent use', formalize the 'assessment' process and amend time frames and investigations stages.

RISO plans to take the time to create an SOP based on the different funding agencies and regulations, allowing them to make the policy less procedurally based. They also incorporated language around 'creative and scholarly work' to lessen the focus on PHS funding. They have also incorporated RISO and OGC's past practices that have worked well in research misconduct proceedings and investigations.

RISO plans to continue to meet with shared governance groups across campus.

Questions:

Q: What is an example of a conduct issue?

A: Plagiarism, can look different depending on org/college. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest.

Q: Is there a redlined version you can share with SCEC?

A: Yes, they can share the redlined version. Associate Provost Lois Geist, OGC, research council and faculty senate have all reviewed and provided feedback.

Q: How can SC help?

A: Direct questions to Andrews, Campo or Zihlman.

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Ran over time, rescheduled Kate Wiley to July.

**Adjournment**

- Peters motioned to adjourn, Sanders seconded; motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

**Next meeting:** July 2, 2025