

UI Staff Council Executive Committee
Wednesday, September 3, 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

Michael Benning

Approval of UISC Executive committee meeting minutes

Minutes approval:

- August 6, 2025 – UISC Executive Committee Meeting – motion by Peters, second by Sanders, [approved with no edits]

Discussion Topics

Staff Council and Social Media – *Michael Benning, Director of Digital Marketing • UNIV Creative Services*

Michael Benning, Director of Digital Marketing, presented on the risks and challenges of managing public-facing social media accounts. He emphasized the legal constraints around public comments and the importance of consistent posting (minimum 3x/week). Due to limited resources and potential reputational risks, the recommendation was to consider sunsetting the SC social media accounts. Discussion included comment moderation limitations, platform differences (Instagram vs. Facebook), and alternative communication strategies like IowaNow. Executive committee approved sunsetting SC social media accounts. Plan to discuss during the September SC meeting.

Tips & Tricks for Next Week – Mitchell

Covered topics included Staff Appreciation Grant, attendance expectations, committee meeting reminders, and administrative office hours. Peters will present on committee work expectations: making goals apart of the agenda, participation amongst councilors and chairs being prepared to share updates with leadership.

Health Insurance Rate Update (FRIC) – Bathke

Bathke provided updates included GLP1 pilot participation, voluntary benefits such as pet insurance and an offering for short-term disability, and rate increases. Wellmark formulary costs and staff enrollment numbers were reviewed. Recommendation to invite John Laverty to discuss FRIC efforts at a future meeting.

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ELA Discussion – Peters

Focus on communication, inclusivity, and belonging. Discussion on how to keep satellite locations engaged and improving the dissemination of communication across campus.

Coca-Cola Budget Requests – Peters

- Abigail Schaver – \$15,000 – Mary Jo Small – Approved
- Melanie Cuchna – \$ 8 000 – Health Fair Marketing – Approved
 - Suggestion to get our SC brand on the marketing. Peters will reach out to Cuchna.

Staff Appreciation Grant Discussion – Barrett

Barrett provided updated on plan for SC to take on the Staff Appreciation Grant. Application opens 10/1 for one month. For the initial year the executive committee will review applications, likely this will be delegated to the awards committee. Eligibility changes in which departments or units that received funding last fiscal year are not eligible this year, fall-only awards and reporting requirements. Discussed how to better market – including SC newsletter, councilors *must share* and IowaNow.

Council Corner Review – Barrett

August council corner feedback shared with leadership. General Counsel to present on public records law, Iowa Code. SCEC discussed ideas for September's councilor corner topic - performance review inconsistencies and communication improvements, asking councilors why they work in higher education, sunseting social media – need ideas. Plan to address all three topics. Staff input will be gathered for leadership discussion in October.

Adjournment

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

Next meeting: October 1, 2025