

UI Staff Council Executive Committee  
Wednesday, November 1, 2023  
2:30 – 4:30 pm  
2520B UCC

## Attendance

**Present:** Neda Barrett, Nima Chaudhary, Makur Jain, Molly James, James Jorris, Jackie Kleppe, Brian Morelli, Ashley Peters, David Stenersen.

**Liaison:** Kellie Digmann.

**Guest:** Barry Schreier.

## Minutes

SCEC October minutes were adopted unanimously without changes. (Motioned by James. Seconded by Peters.)

## Discussion topics

### **Mental Health Champion Award – Schreier**

Schreier is director of Scanlon Center for School Mental Health and clinical professor of psychology and quantitative foundations. Schreier cites national figures showing two-thirds of staff and faculty in higher education are very or extremely stressed and about one-third have considered leaving higher education in the past two years. Scanlon Center is preparing faculty and staff to care for themselves as well as be prepared to recognize and intervene in mental health challenges of colleagues or students. They offer a variety of programs and trainings (over 4,000 participants/100 presentations) in the past year.

- The newly created “Working with Students in Distress” is an 8-hour, four-part master class next offered in the spring. The enrollment cap is 30 participants. It is packaged toward working with students, but the class teaches universal skills. There is no cost to participants in the program.
- Kognito mental health training among faculty and staff has seen a 329% increase in participation in the past 14 months compared to entire first three years. The UI relationship with Kognito continues for another 15 months. Feedback has been very positive.
- Obermann Workgroup has been meeting to reconceptualize the mental health crisis in higher ed. This is a joint effort of Scanlon Center and Center Teaching and Learning.
- Livingworks ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) provides nationally certified trainers in partnership between Scanlan Center and UIowa Suicide Prevention Task Force to offer ASIST Suicide Prevention Training on campus.

**Call to action: Support for Mental Health Champion Award.** There is a \$250 prize. The first round of awards garnered 31 applications. The call for awards goes out in February. Learn more about criteria at <https://scsmh.education.uiowa.edu/higher-education/award/>. Schreier is seeking Staff Council to co-sponsor the award, offer a volunteer for reviewing, help marketing, and request for \$500-\$1,000 to support the program. Jorris suggested pairing with other campus awards so all winners can be celebrated.

**Staff Council Agenda Review – Wed 11/08/2023**

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James to highlight Communicate, Collaborate, Celebrate successes including Faculty & Staff Awards ceremony at the Levitt Center, Adopt-A-Highway volunteer clean up, and communicating parking and transportation changes. Awards, Bylaws, DEI, and Community Outreach have updates. Steve Fleagle will provide an overview and response plan for AI. The HR update will be a review of recruitment plan. The Wellbeing update is listening post. Teri Schnelle will discuss Iowa GROW (Guided Reflection on Work).

### **Council Corner - Jorris**

Executive Committee reviewed feedback from the most recent Council Corner input.

#### **Q1: What are our best methods of communicating and how do your constituents prefer to be communicated with?**

Responses: Email is preferred when possible, although respondents also noted there are too many emails. Participating in staff meetings in your unit. Hold town halls. Org reps have the responsibility to send post meeting packets to their constituents. There is a recommendation for org reps to email from the personal inbox with the theory more people will read if they see who it is coming from vs. a generic email account. Barrett suggested having a graphic with all the council members faces and contact info to help staff members remember who represents them when Staff Council has a presence at events, such as the Health Fair and Science Thursdays.

#### **Q2. How active are you in Staff Council? If not, what is hindering you from being active and how can we assist ensuring you have the best experience supporting your constituents, campus and community?**

Responses: A common obstacle is workload prevents participation in SC. There is also a feeling members run for Staff Council without fully understand the time commitment. Members need to expect to put in time not just at meetings but also in contributing in some way beyond meetings. There are many benefits of Staff Council but one gets out of it what one puts in. There was a suggestion for a 6 month refresher given new members have information overload at the beginning.

### **New Staff Council Forms - Jorris**

Digmann created new a Purchase Request Form and new Swag Request Form. Staff Council members are encouraged to use these to help better track goods and supplies.

## **Adjournment**

SCEC votes to adjourn.

## **Next meeting**

### **Next Meeting**

**December 6, 2023**

**2:30-4:30p**

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