



## University Staff Advisory Council Meeting Brief and Updates October 2023

Council members attend monthly meetings that are not open to the public. This brief highlights non-confidential topics that may be shared widely with staff. Any questions can be directed to the linked resources or to [askUSAC@psu.edu](mailto:askUSAC@psu.edu). For information on USAC, the Voice for Penn State Staff, visit the [USAC website](#).

### October Meeting Recap

At the October general council meeting, USAC focused on discussion of the growth and expansion of USAC. Topics included desired types of guest speakers, interaction with faculty senate and other staff advisory councils, and external committee involvement. The council voted to extend monthly meetings from two hours to three hours to accommodate increasing number of guest speaker requests. Additionally, the council decided to pursue development of a strategic plan in alignment with university-wide goals.

### USAC on the Road

The council will head to [three campuses this fiscal year](#) as part of its ongoing commitment to representing staff in all units and campuses. Members of USAC meet at three campuses each year, one from the Eastern, Central, and Western region of the commonwealth. Look for additional information on these meetings from USAC and local Staff Advisory Committees.

- College of Medicine, Hershey, November 2
- Lehigh Valley, Center Valley, March 2024
- Beaver, Monaca, June 2024

### Building on Family Sick Leave

Members of USAC are proud to announce that Penn State Human Resources, with advocacy from council members, expanded the University's family sick leave policy to 80 hours per year. Currently, full-time staff employees may use up to 40 hours of their accrued sick leave per calendar year to care for a sick family member. Starting on Jan. 1, 2024, the family sick leave policy increases to 80 hours per calendar year. [Read more about this expanded benefit.](#)

### New Mark

As part of the University's growing commitment to staff, USAC now has an official Penn State mark.

### **Staff Facts or Benefits:** Access to AncestryLibrary.com

Penn State staff can access the AncestryLibrary.com database with their Access ID. To access this database, visit <https://libraries.psu.edu/> and from the Databases A-Z list, click on the Ancestry Library Edition link.

### **Next Council meeting**

The next USAC general council meeting is on Tuesday, November 14, 2023.

### **University-wide committee involvement and staff opportunities available**

USAC officers and members sit on a variety of external committees, which can be found on the [USAC Impact page](#).

### **Reminders**

- **Benefits Open Enrollment:** Penn State's 2024 Benefits Open Enrollment starts Monday, November 6, and runs through 5:00 p.m. EST on Friday, November 17. More information is available through the [Penn State HR website](#). As announced in [Penn State Today](#), there are several changes for the upcoming year. Updates to 2024 plan contributions will see modest monthly increases for employees earning less than \$140,000 each year while maintaining the current "Lion Traditional" and "Lion Advantage" plan designs.
- **Winter Break Schedule:** December 22, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and January 1, 2024

### **Valuable links**

- Show a colleague how much you appreciate their efforts with a [Positive Paw](#)
- Recognize a fellow Penn Stater by submitting a "[WE ARE](#)" shout out in Penn State Today
- Don't miss important announcements and news from [Penn State Today](#)
- Learn how to identify and report [spotted lanternflies](#)
- The Penn State community is encouraged to report potential issues about behavior that is inconsistent with the [Penn State Values](#). A 24/7 [Penn State Hotline](#) is available or call 800-560-1637.

### **About USAC**

The University Staff Advisory Council consists of dedicated staff who act in an advisory capacity to central administration; explore issues, policies, and practices that impact staff; suggest revisions to policies and new policy initiatives; and advocate for staff welfare and development. USAC serves the PSU president and administration through the vice president of human resources and accepts new members annually.

Contact us: [askusac@psu.edu](mailto:askusac@psu.edu)

USAC Website: <https://hr.psu.edu/university-staff-advisory-council>

LIKE us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PSUUSAC/>

Connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#)