



THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS

STAFF COUNCIL

**Thursday, September 16, 2021
Zoom at 10:00am**

- I. **Approval of Minutes** – The August Minutes had not been completed due to the interruption of operations caused by Hurricane Ida.
- II. **Executive Committee Reports** – There were no updates to report, as UNO was closed both weeks between Staff Council meetings.
- III. **Committee Reports** – There were no updates to report, as UNO was closed both weeks between Staff Council meetings.
- IV. **New Business**
 - a. Hurricane Ida Check-In – Staff members indicated that they have been experiencing difficulties in adjusting to the variety of obstacles and struggles facing our community. We also discussed staff members' struggles with garbage pickup in Orleans Parish. Contact a Staff Council Officer if you need help, conversation, or a solution to a struggle you are facing.

We discussed the food insecurity facing some students, and staff members were encouraged to contact Reagan Laiche, director of operations for Student Affairs, at rlaiche@uno.edu or (504) 280-6620 to offer monetary support or donations. They are also in need of assistance with grocery pick-up. Visit the [Privateer Pantry website](#) for more information.

See Appendix I below for Dr. Nicklow's email regarding the new Employee Assistance Program (EAP) focused on mental wellness.

Staff members were informed that the Recreation & Fitness Center is closed until further notice due to damage from Hurricane Ida.
- V. **Old Business**
 - a. Bylaws – A draft of the updated and revised bylaws will be posted on the Staff Council website by Friday, September 24. The bylaws will be posted for 30 days, during which time staff members may provide feedback to the Executive Committee. We intend to hold a vote on the updated bylaws at the November general meeting.
 - b. Councilor Discussion – The President requested nominees and volunteers to occupy the vacant Councilor positions. All nominations and self-nominations should be emailed to staffcouncil@uno.edu.
 - c. Door Prize – Portia Gordon won the door prize awarded after the August meeting! The President will deliver homemade cookies to the winning staff member.
- VI. **Next Meeting** – Thursday, October 21, 2021; Zoom at 10AM - Guest Speaker: TBA

APPENDIX I

Dr. Nicklow's Email regarding Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

From: Office of the President

To: All Local Campus Faculty & Staff

Subject Line: Employee Assistance Program Now Available

Date: Mon 9/13/2021 12:36 PM

Dear Colleagues,

Addressing our mental and physical wellness is not a luxury—it is a necessity. That's particularly true given the ongoing stress caused by Hurricane Ida and its aftermath. Our new Employee Assistance Program, which offers hundreds of free resources, is now available for you. It includes:

- Help with stress, anxiety, depression and addiction.
- Three face-to-face counseling sessions at no cost to you.
- Advice and referrals about child care, elder care, legal issues, work-life balance and financial matters.

The services that you access are confidential and are not reported to UNO. Visit [Employee Assistance Program | The University of New Orleans \(uno.edu\)](#) to watch an overview video, review the resources and get directions on how to access the website.

As a reminder, there is still time to sign up for “EDHP 1090: Aerobics and Anaerobics,” a free two-credit physical activity course in the Human Performance and Health Promotion program that encourages employees to be active and well. Classes will be conducted in the Recreation & Fitness Center. It's open to all faculty and staff, including those who are new to physical activity. For more details and to register by the Thursday, September 16 deadline, [click here](#).

I encourage you to explore these resources and utilize those that are appropriate for you.

UNO Proud,

John Nicklow, PhD, PE, PH, DWRE

President

The University of New Orleans