



THE UNIVERSITY *of* NEW ORLEANS

STAFF COUNCIL

Staff Council: 01.20.2022

Next meeting is Thursday, February 24th: Dr. Nicklow.

Update on Committees:

Membership/Elections Committee: This committee isn't quite active yet

Staff Concerns Committee: Staff concerns committee is active and ready to start responding to concerns or suggestions that come in. Any concerns sent to staff council will be reported to the committee and addressed as a team.

Please note that you can always reach out to Randall, Joy, Julie, Willis, or Coleen or the Staff Council email and request to remain anonymous instead of using the anonymous form.

Events Committee:

- Working on a spring social and the word is there might be ice cream involved (dreaming of warmer days soon!)
- February 22nd: Krewe of UNO Mardi Gras Parade (12:30-1:30). More information to come! Hopefully it won't rain. It should be fun to get everyone outside and together. We're excited. If you want to be in the parade, come on! We need spectators as well along the route so mark your calendars :)
- We've also included the [link to the shoebox float](#) – The shoebox floats will be displayed at the king cake party. The king cake will be individually wrapped so you can take them to-go and eat them in a socially distanced way outside

Awards Committee: Will collaborate with HR to revamp the employee of the month award

Wellness Committee: Looking for more committee members (right now it is just Braylin), but is also looking to restart the Presidents Walking Club

Parking Committee: This committee was started out of a concern received about the appeals process for a parking ticket. Upon looking into the issue we realized that this committee met and realized we're not needed for the appeals process itself, but can certainly help in drafting or navigating filing an appeal. **If you receive a ticket and need help writing an appeal, please reach out.**

Reach out to Joy if you want to help with any of the committees. She will get you in touch with the groups. We're also looking into Scholarships and will present that information soon.

Executive Committee Reports

Weave Goals: Randall would like to start on WEAVE goals for Staff Council. Starting small, we'd like to set 2 or 3 goals with targeted/measurable outcomes. I know it's not everyone's favourite activity, but we're looking for 2 or 3 volunteers to help with this. If you like setting goals, reach out!

Staff Council Communication:

The best way for us to communicate with staff across campus is through the staff council website:

<http://www.uno.edu/staff-council>

Julie has worked really hard to update the website. You can find recent communication, agendas, meeting minutes, bylaws, events, and professional development opportunities. It's also a good place to find out what committees are up to.

January Staff Concerns & response:

Just another reminder that if you submit an anonymous concern or suggestion, the only way we can respond is through the monthly meeting. If your concern is time-sensitive, or might require follow-up questions, please consider reaching out to someone on staff council directly. You may request to remain anonymous with us and we're happy to honor that, but doing it this way will allow us to address and follow-up in a more timely manner. Of course, the anonymous form lives on our website for those times where reaching out directly isn't an option.

The message received in January is COVID related and we totally understand. We're all tired and scared and overwhelmed by the constant onslaught of trying news. Please take the time to monitor your health and well-being. If you're sick please contact your supervisor, but also if you contract COVID please make sure to update the university through the COVID app:

<https://myuno.sharepoint.com/sites/campusdata/SitePages/COVID-WebReport.aspx>

Staff concern received 01/07/2021:

I am deeply concerned about remote working ending and everyone returning to campus next week. There is not LESS omicron circulating amongst the population now than there was before Christmas—one of my students' family members and one of my office mates and their family tested positive around Dec. 22, now another of my office mates and their entire family has tested positive as of today, and yesterday someone in my household got a message that THEIR coworker has tested positive (and these are all fully vaccinated people, btw). It's likely, therefore, that a great deal of staff (including myself) won't be able to come to campus next week, anyway, because they'll be isolating. It seems like returning to work in-person next week will ensure that those of us who haven't tested positive or had symptoms yet will get omicron/delta and continue to pass it around to each other. Can we please continue to work remotely until it's genuinely safe to return? Or at least until the risk abates significantly more?

Response to Staff Council Message (Office of the President):

Thank you for your thoughtful message detailing your concerns about the current surge of the coronavirus. As it has throughout the pandemic, the University's COVID-19 Task Force has closely followed the data surrounding infection rates, hospitalizations, patients on ventilators and deaths, as well as other relevant scientific indicators. While the omicron surge has led to many new positive cases, I believe that we now have better tools and, over the last few weeks, we've gained a much-improved understanding of how the virus behaves than previously in the pandemic. Serious illness is less likely and the vast majority of hospitalizations are associated with unvaccinated individuals. Our campus community has remarkably high vaccination rates and generally excellent adherence to mask requirements. Testing is readily available. And for those interested in added flexibility, many eligible employees are taking advantage of our telework policy. We also have to balance our health and safety imperatives with the need to carry out our mission and serve our students in the best way possible. We will continue to provide regular updates as we navigate the pandemic together. Thank you for your commitment to the University.

Door Decorating Contest:

Winners and pictures posted on our website (<https://www.uno.edu/staff-council/events>) Thanks for participating it was so nice to see all the creativity.

Guest Speaker: Ann Lockridge

Intro: Everyone knows enrollment is tough. We're all here to help students, whether that's back of the house or student facing. We're always looking for tools to help students. Ann is here to talk about financial aid.

Job in a nutshell: Supervise financial aid, veteran services, and a person of many hats. My goal is to help students.

COVID and Hurricane Ida really throwing the wrench in many students plans

There is help out there for financial aid!

Students need to file FAFSA - all domestic students should be able to do so
If the student is under 24, the FAFSA does require parent information
Financial aid counselors can help if students have trouble or family issues that complicate this.

Our website has a ton of information - private scholarship lists, private donor information, federal vs private loans. We try to steer students away from private loans as much of as possible but the information is there.

Hardship doesn't always happen in the first semester, so we want students to have their counselor information for ANY time in their educational journey

The last two years, we've seen enrolment suffer but also our drop rate has increased. I can't imagine a teenager coming into college dealing with COVID and hurricanes and everything ON TOP of regular freshman challenges.

We have options for students who need to appeal if they lost federal or state aid ([SAP Appeal Instructions](#)),

We send out notices and are developing a newsletter, but those get buried so it's helpful to let students know there's help out there if they get in touch with their financial aid counselor.

CARES act funding: we were given federal money Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund
We have two application processes

[HEERF III Funding:](#) Funding is expected to expire in May, so we might ask for an extension if there is money left to distribute
For students who need more money to go to school

HEERF money is a grant. It is not a loan that students will have to pay back.

International and daca students are eligible for this ***

- It's a little challenging for international students because we need another measure for auditors, but we try our best. As long as they are degree seeking they can apply for this.

The funding is \$500 - \$2000 for expenses related to COVID: housing, medical, food, child care. Students do not need to be Pell grant recipients, just pell grant eligible. Students who are Pell Grant Recipients are automatically reviewed for funding.

For students who owe a balance for COVID semester (spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021) they can apply for an internal application - contact financial aid counselor or Willis, processed in 3-5 business days

This has been really helping students with balances

If you have a student who is coming to you who is distraught about not being able to afford school or stay in housing, please have them reach out to FA and tell them there are resources available. So often students just shut down believing that there isn't anything that can help.

Federal work study students are being paid \$15 an hour. Encouraged to work 20 hours a week for work/school/life balance. Right now the official max is 29 hours, but it will move to 20 hours in the summer semester.

Federal work study is based on need.

Students get a receipt email letting them know their application has been received and a timeframe for processing.

Question:

If we have a student paid off a grant, we used to have to submit a memo to justify hourly rate increase. Do we need to do this to increase the pay up to \$15?

Answer: **No, only if it's above \$15.**

Have an Agenda Item?

If you have an agenda item to mention at a meeting: please send us an email! We'll resolve or put it on the agenda. We usually set the agenda 2 weeks out, and send it out 1 week before. So if you can let us know at least a week before that would be great.

Food Insecurity on Campus:

The Privateer Pantry is always accepting donations for the food pantry. You can donate by shopping amazon wishlists, payroll deduction, or making monetary donations through the UNO Foundation. Please consider helping out as you're able to help combat food insecurity in our university community.

<https://www.uno.edu/privateerpantry>

Addendum 1: Chat Log

09:51:32 From Randall Menard to Everyone:

Shoe box float

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9dvUMQRAaUS_7t8pSp3hUEarRL5vo_1BnAvhCc39w79UQUIDS1A1OEq5Sk1SSUIFMUIRT1hSSuk2Ti4u

10:00:54 From Randall Menard to Everyone:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9dvUMQRAaUS_7t8pSp3hUEarRL5vo_1BnAvhCc39w79UQUIDS1A1OEq5Sk1SSUIFMUIRT1hSSuk2Ti4u

10:04:12 From Joy B. (she/her/hers) to Everyone:

jnballa1@uno.edu for elections

10:04:17 From Joy B. (she/her/hers) to Everyone:

committees!

10:14:02 From Ross Gernon to Everyone:

<https://www.uno.edu/staff-council>

10:14:11 From Julie Landry to Everyone:

Thank you for adding the link! You beat me to it!

10:20:29 From nmukherj to Everyone:

And get your free Covid tests at [Covidtest.gov](https://www.covidtest.gov)

10:21:30 From nmukherj to Everyone:

[Covidtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov) Make sure you make tests plural.

10:22:20 From Coleen Maidlow to Everyone:

There will be a place to submit for free kn95 masks soon too

10:38:58 From Brian McDonald to Everyone:

only 4 per address is allowed

10:44:36 From UNO | Enjilee Bailey (her, hers, she) to Everyone:

have great weekend

10:44:38 From Lynette Denise Bates to Everyone:

Thank you.

10:44:54 From Julie Landry to Everyone:

Thanks everyone!

Addendum 2: Attendance

Julie Landry

Randall Menard

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Bill Sheffield

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Coleen Maidlow

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Becky Ferris (beferr1@uno.edu)

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nmukherj

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Jody

egavila2

Joy B. (she/her/hers)

Denise Banks

Ann Lockridge

Ishubert

scalamar

Carol Mitton

Dennis Baker

15042806687

Monique Nolan Legendre

Erik Wahl
Chris Nobles
Tiffany C. (she/her/hers)
Amy King
Colby Stoever
Amritha Appaswami
Nerolie Rayson
jbiscegl
Michaela Godfrey
Brian McDonald
Eileen Dooley
Phillip Pinkston
Jennifer Grant
Kimberly Esteves
Shannon Williamson
Gretchen Smith
Cara Traczek
14096832729

Dr. Gloria J. Walker
Erin Sutherland (UNO Erin Sutherland)
Liane Carboni
Tajuanda Montreuil
bbarras1
Marketa Janousova
Bill Sheffield
LaTasha Gonzales
Joe Bisceglie
Emily Zurek
jbush
Ross Gernon
Sherri Ganucheau
sfvarble
Sterling Steward# Jr.
Leslie Lindsey (UNO)
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aburrell

Alana Coleman
Amanda Robbins# UNO she/her/hers
David R
Willis
Rebecca Chaiban
UNO | Enjilee Bailey (her# hers# she)
15042805492
15045792540
Mariana Z. Martinez
Vince's iPhone
Billy
Eliza N
Lynette Denise Bates
Karen
Gay Parvazi
Ame Flynn

The UNO Staff Council is dedicated to providing the best possible representation for the staff of the University. Our goal is to identify ways to support and enhance the lives of our valued fellow staff. Staff Council welcomes input from the entire university community in order to make the University of New Orleans the best place to work and prosper in the City of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana.