

**SONOMA
STATE
UNIVERSITY**



**STAFF COUNCIL
ANNUAL
REPORT
2022-2023**



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PURPOSE

Staff Council Executive Committee 2022-2023:

- Katie Musick,
Chair
- Gillian Estes,
Vice Chair
- Nina Mendia,
Secretary
- River Cullen,
Treasurer
- Kari Manwiller,
Custodian of
Records

The Staff Council's purpose:

- The Staff Council shall report directly to the campus President or the President's Designee.
- The Staff Council is a recognized body within shared governance on the SSU campus.
- The Staff Council shall only provide input on issues not covered by collective bargaining.
- The Staff Council may sponsor programs, events & various services in an effort to promote a culture of respect, cooperation & understanding across the campus community.
- The Staff Council may offer advice on community & academic-related matters. The SSU Staff Council & its representatives acknowledge SSU's core values, including inclusiveness & embracing the diversity of people & beliefs.



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

With the end of the academic and fiscal year fast approaching, I realized that the end of 2022-2023 also marks the fifth year that the Staff Council has served as a recognized body within shared governance at SSU. Happy 5th Anniversary SSU Staff Council!

When the staff at SSU voted in favor of reforming a Staff Council in 2018, we had no way of knowing how dramatically the events of the past five years would shape the priorities, role, and meeting format of the group. However, even with all the changes since its inception, the staff council has stayed true to its purpose. Looking back at the townhall meeting held in 2017 where we initially presented the idea of reforming a Staff Council, the one question that kept coming up was, what is Staff Council? I find it heartening that even with everything that has changed, the answer to that question still resonates today.

*In short, Staff Council represents an organized body composed of **all non-faculty employees at Sonoma State**, providing a forum in which they can lend their voices, and include their interests, through the shared governance process. There's an old saying that none of us is as smart as all of us. The Chronicle of Higher Education once explained shared governance as "a delicate balance between faculty and staff participation in planning and decision-making processes, on the one hand, and administrative accountability on the other."*

While the purpose of the staff council is still relevant, reaching this five year milestone necessitates a review of the Staff Council constitution and bylaws to determine if those documents reflect and support the Staff Council today. As part of that review, the staff council executive committee is considering forming at least two subcommittees to support some of the Staff Council's ongoing commitments which have significantly increased over the past five years. The hope is that this will also provide an opportunity for the Staff Council to pursue activities that we have not yet been able to prioritize. Going into 2023-2024 we look forward to this exciting opportunity to further define the role of the Staff Council at SSU.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

The Staff Council bi-weekly meeting attendance numbers have continued to grow with attendance, often over fifty participants. Beyond just the attendance numbers, the Staff Council Executive Committee saw significant outreach and interest in participating in the “Building Campus Connections Initiative” from leadership across campus and we look forward to continuing those collaborations in the future. We have appreciated strengthening our partnership with the Academic Senate and want to thank immediate past chair Lauren Morimoto and immediate past vice chair Bryan Burton for the efforts to build closer connections between the Staff Council and Academic Senate.

Special thanks to our outgoing executive committee members, River Cullen (Treasurer) and Nina Mendia (Secretary). River and Nina joined the leadership team during a pivotal year for the staff council and were both key contributors to the Building Campus Connections Initiative project and its success. While their insight and contributions will be missed, we are excited to wish them both luck on their future endeavors.

Thank you all for your support of the SSU Staff Council and we look forward to continuing to make every effort to successfully serve the staff as a recognized body within shared governance at SSU. Please join us at our meetings for the 2023-2024 academic and fiscal year. We hope that by taking the opportunity to reflect on the past five years, we can look toward what exciting new things we can accomplish together over the next five years and beyond.

Katie Musick
Chair, Staff Council

HIGHLIGHTS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR

Staff Council developed a stronger relationship with Academic Senate.

Staff Council strengthened their partnership with Human Resources through regular bimonthly meetings.

The Chair gave a short speech at Fall 2022 University Convocation to help usher in the new academic year.

The Vice Chair helped announce service years at the Staff and Faculty Milestones event, the first one held in person since 2018.

Staff Council Executive Committee facilitated a dialogue between faculty and staff during an Academic Senate Chair Chat session, focused on how including multiple perspectives within shared governance can help further the success of SSU.

The Chair spoke at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the reopening of the newly renovated Stevenson Hall.

Staff Council consulted with Human Resources on staff appreciation events, including the Staff Appreciation Basketball game, and the return of Fridays at Four.

The Vice Chair and Secretary shared talking points at the end of the academic year Scoops of Gratitude event.

As the elected leadership of the Staff Council, the Staff Council Executive Committee had the opportunity to meet with the interim CSU Chancellor.

The Chair and Vice Chair participated in the President's Senior Leadership Council, and met regularly with President Lee and Provost Moranski as part of their work to keep informed as to campus climate and changes.

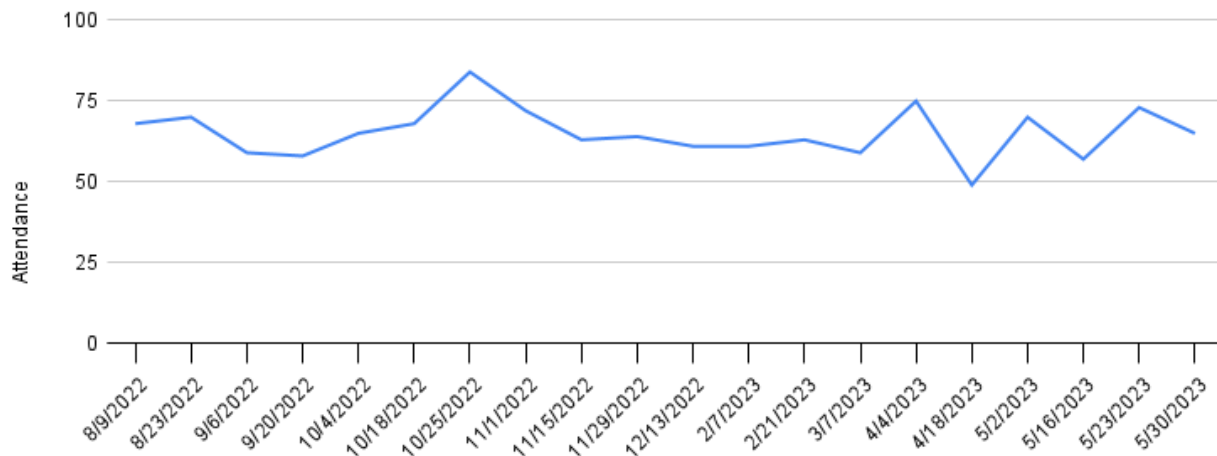


MEETING ATTENDANCE METRICS

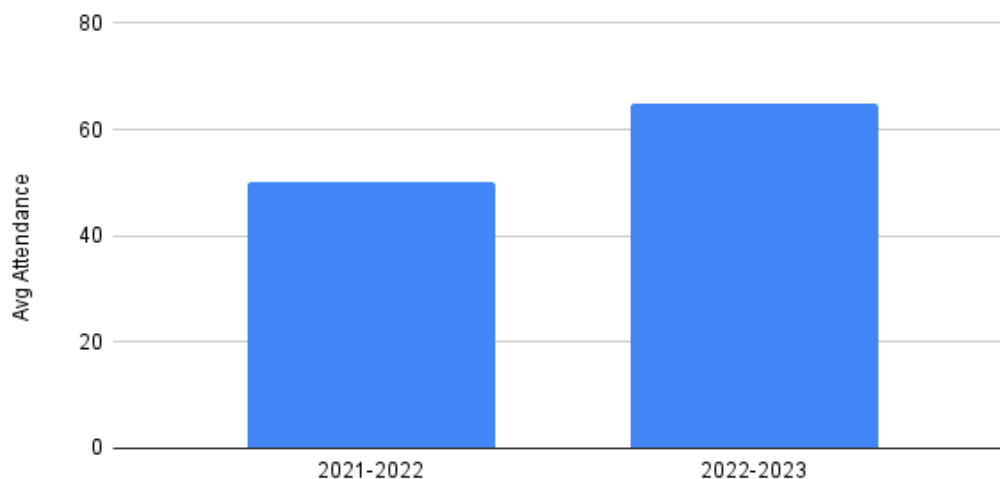
During the past Academic Year (August, 2022 to May, 2023) the SSU Staff Council continued to meet every other Tuesday from 1-2pm, with additional ("special") meetings as needed. Attendance has continued to increase as compared to previous years. Looking forward, we hope to maintain or grow our current attendance numbers.



Attendance, Fall 2022 - Spring 2023



Average Attendance by Academic Year



MEETING GUESTS & PRESENTATIONS

During Academic Year 2022-2023, the Staff Council hosted:

August 2022

- President Lee
- Provost Karen Moranski

September 2022

- PeopleSoft Fluid Navigation Demo by IT
- Academic Senate Vice Chair
- Risk Management and Safety Services
- Student Affairs
- Strategic Enrollment

October 2022

- Green Music Center
- Strategic Communications
- IT Project Management Overview
- Winter Intersession/Summer Session
- Enrollment & Budget Consultation – President Lee & Provost Moranski
- Academic Master Plan (AMP)

November 2022

- The HUB Cultural Center
- Counseling and Psychological Services
- Sonoma State Police Department
- Report and Discussion from Staff Council Chair Chat
- Dean of Students

December 2022

- Academic Senate Chair & Vice Chair

MEETING GUESTS & PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

February 2023

- Summer Stateside Courses Discussion
- President Lee
- Giving Day
- Strategic Enrollment
- AMP Staff Representative Update

March 2023

- AMP Staff Representative Report – New and Continuing Programs
- Commencement 2023 Update
- Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination

April 2023

- Provost Karen Moranski
- Opportunities to serve on University Committees and Staff Council
- Reports from University Committees
- AMP Steering Committee & Liberal Arts Identity Working Group

May 2023

- Shared Services Working Group
- AMP Staff Representative Updates
- AMP New and & Continuing Programs Update
- Accessibility Guide Review
- Academic Senate Chair and Vice Chair
- Reports from University Committees:
 - Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Council
 - President's Budget Advisory Council
- New Academic Senate Leadership
- WSCUC Steering Committee, Institutional Report
- AMP Report Feedback with Provost
- Staff Orientation Overview
- Reports from Staff Council: New Staff Representatives

STAFF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE APPOINTEES

Staff currently have at-large representatives on university committees and short-term working groups. To support staff participation in shared governance, we will continue our efforts to ensure future university committees include staff participation when appropriate. The university committee appointees serve one semester to three-year terms aligned with the academic year (August - May).

AMP Steering Committee/ Liberal Arts Identity Working Group	Hope Emry Ortiz
AMP Current & New Programs Working Group	Sara Jordan
AMP Strategic Scheduling Working Group	Kathryn Atwood
President's Advisory Council on Campus Police & Safety	Tracey Fleming
President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, Campus Climate & Inclusion	Ivonne Mejia Berzunza, Aidan Humrich
President's Advisory Council on Title IX	Rachel Carbone, Molly Mande
President's Budget Advisory Council	Audra Verrier, John Lynch
President's Sustainability Advisory Council	Soo Haylett

STAFF UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE APPOINTEES CONTINUED

Campus Planning & University Space Advisory Committee	Sadie Pettit
Commencement Logistics Committee	Kendall Newman
Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Council	Kelly Clark, Mike Dominguez
SafeSSU Committee	Shelley Gomez
Sonoma State Enterprises, Inc & Audit Committee	Ashley Blaylock, Audra Verrier
University Culinary Services Advisory Board	Poonam Rani
Academic Senate	Kate Sims

**Thank you to all SSU Staff who have served as staff
representatives on each of these committees in
2022-2023!**

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

- Establish and write charges for Staff Council subcommittees
- Continue working closely with HR to identify opportunities for staff volunteer projects and celebrations of staff
- Continue strengthening working relationships with President, Cabinet, Academic Senate, and other campus leadership
- Continue the Building Campus Connections Initiative
- Confirm campus funding and identify Staff Council funding priorities





FIVE YEAR GOALS

- Staff Mentor project
- Build connections with other CSU Staff Councils
- Continue strengthening working relationships with the President, Cabinet, Academic Senate, and other campus leadership.
- Continue to identify University committees where staff representation is appropriate
- Send out annual survey at the close of each academic year

