

Good morning and thank you trustees and administration. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the students, faculty, and staff. My name is Tyler Thompson and I am the current president of UAW Local 1950 TOPS and I am here in representation of not only the 90+ members of my group, but also in representation of the UAW Local 2178 AP Union and our Local AFSCME union who collectively keep our University running day in and day out. I'd also like to thank each and every staff and faculty member who is working to arrange the different aspects of commencement tomorrow, ensuring the ceremony goes off without a hitch.

Now, getting into the thick of what the staff council has been up to since the last update in September.

1. Andy mentioned in the last update that Rhea had reached out to begin working on staff development programs. Between the concerted efforts of Rhea, Renee Sheen, and the various staff members brought in we have covered a lot of ground. The first large bit to have come from these meetings is piloting a staff orientation program to help introduce new staff to campus; really priming the pump so that they can hit the ground running. The first session will be held on January 9th and how this session runs will help to inform how future sessions will be instructed. The second Large update to come from these conversations will be a new approach to staff development. Staff professional development is not a new concept to campus, but the targeted approach that we hope to attain will help boost campus on several levels.
2. Departing from the meetings we have had with Rhea and Renee, I am happy to announce that the Staff Labor council is fully formed now, with the addition of the 'Members at Large' from each group. Our Council is now comprised of the following individuals:
  - a. From the AP unit – President Andy Hill, Vice President Kathy Frazier, and Member at Large Kylie Bunting
  - b. From the TOP unit – Myself, Vice president Lara Clisch, and Member at Large Carolyn Robertson
  - c. And from the AFSCME unit – President Don Sibilsky, Vice President Steve Terres, and Member at Large Kevin Price
3. In addition to recently meeting with the DEIB and Provost candidates visiting campus, our Council has come together to begin looking at the interests at each of our groups individually in an effort to see where commonalities and discrepancies may lie.
4. To that end we each have surveyed our members to garner what seems to be at the forefront of issues that we can come together and tackle as a unified group. Results are being compiled on initial surveys with plans for future surveys being made.

5. In the meantime, we will also begin to look at the contracts for each staff union to again, look for commonalities, or the possibilities for commonalities.

Our goal in coming together is to promote cohesion among staff on campus through different initiatives and continuous discussion.

Thank you so much for your time, and I hope we can continue to keep an open line of communication.