

Staff Council Minutes

Aug 20, 2025 ~ 2:00-4:00 p.m.

University Library Lilly Room 0110

**Members and Guests Present:** Leslie Albers, Sadiya Ali, Chad Beckner, Thora Berndt, Sydney Bielefeld, Brayden Bridgeman, Ainsley Brown, Aaron Buck, Beth Chaisson, Megan Chester, Tyler Childress, Kim Coles, Mindy Cooper, Angela DeCamp, Melissa Decker, Chris Dobbs, Mel Dumas, Tricia Edwards, Alicia Gahimer, Jennifer Gilles, Lauren Gronke, Todd Grooten, Lindsey Hughes, Alison Hughes, Nick Hyllested, Kim Johnson, Madi Jones, Doris Muriathiri, Jamunabai Prakash, Matthew Radican, Violet Salas, Emily Skoniecke, Paige Smith, Ellise Smith, Heather Staggs, Dillon Waggoner, Jordan Wheatley, Andrea Zeek, Camy Broeker, Anne Mitchell, Olivia Stoner

**Members Excused:** Jesse Beck, Roland Graham, Jill Henry, Michael Hernandez, Kris Powell, Huma Siddiqui, Yolanda Taylor

**Members Absent:**Billie Jean Barry, Ailish Evans, Kevin Fryling, Angie Harmon, Lindsay Heinzman, Amber Phillips, Cody Robinette, Lindsay Sanner, Tanika Scott, Anita Snyder, Melissa Vastag, Catherine Zappia

# Agenda Item I: Welcome and Call to Order

Heather Staggs, *President*, [hstaggs@iu.edu](mailto:hstaggs@iu.edu)

IU Indianapolis Staff Council President Heather Staggs called the meeting to order.

# Agenda Item II: [Action Item] Adoption of the Order of Business for the Day

Heather Staggs

The agenda was adopted as the Order of Business for the Day with no changes.

# Agenda Item III: [Action Item] Approval of the Minutes of the June 18, 2025 Staff Council Meeting

Minutes were approved as written with one attendance correction.

# Agenda Item IV: Report from President

Heather shared the following:

Position vacancies – Corresponding Secretary, McKinney School of Law, and Medicine 4.1 representative seats.

In the Spring we as a council worked together to give input on the following:

* Why people got involved in Staff Council
* Observations about the council and our work
* How we as a council could better engage staff
* What the purpose of the Staff Council is and should be
* Staff Council’s impact

At a recent meeting the executive committee used the feedback from that session to help us plan for this council year. We will inform you throughout the year how your feedback is being incorporated.

* Advisory – There was feedback about the council’s progress.
  + First, it is important to explain that we are an advisory council. Being in an advisory role means that as a council we can discuss ideas and recommend changes to campus leadership. We are not a governing body and do not meet with the Board of Trustees.
  + When a committee wants to make a proposal to campus leadership the process is to first meet with the executive committee. Executive committee members review proposals, ask questions, and give feedback on recommendations. For example, these actions were followed by the presenting committee and executive council for the policy proposals last year.
  + If recommendations to the proposal are made by the executive committee, then those revisions are incorporated and presented back to executive committee for consideration of if the council would like campus leadership to review the proposal.
* Knowledge of council – You shared that many are unaware of staff council and how we are here to support. The president email that went to all non-union staff last Friday, was an attempt to share with staff that we are here to support and encourage involvement in council activities from non-elected staff.
* Budget – Based on feedback the executive committee also felt it important to increase transparency in how we are utilizing funds and working to reduce expenditures. Thus far for this year we have eliminated Hootsuite a social media management platform we had been using for posts. This is a reduction of over $950.
* Staff highlights – We also received input on spotlighting staff. From that feedback, we have begun to contact staff with work anniversaries and have received approval from some of them to highlight their impact and commitment. We will use monthly meetings and our website for these recognitions.
* Q&A – We heard that staff were unaware of their ability to submit questions in advance or at meetings. We now have a Q&A box in-person to allow anonymous questions to be submitted and discussed at the meeting.
* Networking – You also shared with us a desire to network more. From this feedback we will look for opportunities to increase networking interactions. We will have one of those opportunities at today’s meeting.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**IU Indianapolis Events Calendar**  <https://events.iu.edu/indianapolis/>

**GenAI**

Advance development. GenAI 101 is designed to be accessible to everyone, regardless of background or discipline. From faculty exploring new teaching strategies to staff seeking more efficient workflows, the course offers immediate, practical applications using tools already available at IU.

**IUI Staff Mentoring Program**

**Regatta** September 27 12-2pm – Forming a team now!!!

**HealthyIU – Fall Offerings**

* Sleep Great IU Challenge – Register by October 31st. Programs starts day after you sign-up.
* Dream Big! 2026 – 6 month program designed to help employees turn their dreams into action through coaching.

**Road to Financial Wellness**

* 8/21 12-1p Get to Know IU’s Retirement Plans & Fidelity Financial Consultants
* 9/10 12-1p Investing for Beginners
* 9/17 12-12:45pm Tackle Debt and Understand Your Credit Score

**Retirement Series**

* 9/5 12-1:30pm Fundamentals of Retirement Income Planning
* 9/11 4-5:30pm Psychology of Retirement
* 9/12 12-1pm Prepare for the Reality of Healthcare in Retirement
* 9/16 4-4:45pm Create a Budget and Build Emergency Savings

**Care Talks** (1-2p)

* 8/21 Juggling Act: The Five Buckets
* 8/26 Get Smart About Brain Health
* 8/27 Bullying: How to Protect Your Child
* 9/4 Emotional Wellness: Mindful Meditation
* 9/9 Parenting a Child with ADD/ADHD
* 9/10 College Financial Planning
* 9/17 Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Care
* 9/18 Dealing with Challenging People

**Additional Opportunities**

* Various group fitness opportunities – vinyasa, pilates, yin yoga, Zumba, and more!
* Developmental Disabilities & Autism ECHO Webinar Series – weekly at noon on Fridays
* Health and Wellness Fair – August 26, 2025, 11a-3p, Campus Center 450
* Skill Series – Set Up Success multiple dates in September
* IU Indianapolis Work-Study Fair – October 1, 2025, 1-4pm, Campus Center 450A

**STAFF MILESTONES**

Each month we will highlight staff milestones from the various year thresholds. As a reminder all staff milestones for the month are listed on the Staff Council website under the Staff Recognition header.

August milestones!

* 5 years – 12
* 10 years – 15
* 15 years – 10
* 20 years – 9
* 25 years – 5
* 30 years – 1
* 40 years – 1

Staff Spotlights

DAVID BRYANT

* Departments/positions you have worked in. Your IU Indy journey!
  + Human Resources classifies me as “IT User Support Tech.” My journey at IU started with me transferring as a student from Ivy Tech, after getting my Associates, to what was IUPUI and getting my Bachelors. During my final year of getting my Bachelors I worked in the Support Center as a Part Time consultant – two years later was promoted to full time. Then in Fall 2021 – I landed my dream job. I became a Department IT. Come this October it’ll be four years that I’ve been with the School of Education. The journey continues to this day as does my learning.
* Favorite part about working at IU Indianapolis.
  + There are too many aspects we get here that others don’t get in environments like ours. If I took the time to list everything, no one would be willing to read it.
* Professional and/or personal accomplishments.
  + This part I personally struggle with as I don’t like to feel like I’m being braggadocios. If I had to highlight something, it’s that I’ve built strong relationships with those I work with. Other than that, it’s my commitment to lifelong learning, whether that’s improving my personal health, my knowledge bank, and how I respond to situations that stress me out/trigger me. I’m very vocal about my health journey with my colleagues whenever it’s an appropriate topic – even if it’s a bit of a stretch. Part of that is because I’m the Healthy IU Ambassador for the School of Education.
  + On a note that’s completely personal – I’m engaged to my best friend Jennifer. She is by far one of my biggest advocates in every aspect of life.
* Hobbies.
  + I’m a gamer, and I volunteer with Emergency Management Services as a Central Indiana Certified Storm Spotter. This often confused with being a Storm Chaser – no I’m a Storm Spotter as I don’t have a degree in Meteorology. Been doing that for more than 10 years.
* Anything else you are comfortable with us sharing.
  + Jon McMahel, Director of IT and Dean Tambra Jackson – both for the School of Education as they gave me a chance at my dream job. I guess it was always fate that I land with the School of Education being that my mom is a semiretired teacher. She taught music for K12, mostly K-5, for more than 30 years.

JENNIFER SICKLES

* Departments/positions you have worked in. Your IU Indy journey!
  + Started my career at a satellite facility for the Laboratory Animal Resource Center in West Lafayette IN. Transferred to Indy campus in 2018. Pivoted to the Department of Surgery in 2021 as an Academic Lab Technician in the Surgery Skills Lab, who is moving into the new Medical Research and Education Building in November 2025.
* Favorite part about working at IU Indianapolis.
  + Proximity to downtown. There's so many beautiful walking trails, entertainment options, and food nearby.
* Professional and/or personal accomplishments.
  + While at LARC, I achieved the 3rd level of Animal Laboratory Technician Certificate as a Laboratory Animal Technologist. I am also starting a certificate program in Adult Education.
* Hobbies.
  + Reading, yarn crafts, cozy video games

**Agenda Item V: Updates from Finance & Administration**

Camy shared the following updates:

Finance & Administration

* Bookstore fall/summer hours are in place
* Einstein Bagels in Campus Center will be replaced; as will Ace Sushi. Sticky Notes will go in where Ace Sushi is
* Market will add a self-scanner so it will be open when Campus Center is
* Chancellor’s Restaurant is under construction
* Hosting the coaches show there
* Updating vending options w/ fresh options
* Bite Wing Café – serves Starbucks
* Parking
* Lot 93 – by Bryce, Lockefield, etc. under construction
* United Way campaign starting
* Reach out to Jamie Owens
* Classroom projects are almost complete
* Construction for arena has been going well

**Agenda Item VI: Updates from Human Resources**

* Campus level admin searches update
* Staff Mentor Program
* IUHR is rolling out new course – Leadership Essentials
* Required for people leaders on the staff side
* Open enrollment – Mon Nov 3 through Nov 14
* Long Service Event – Nov 12
* IU HR website updates
* Shift in how staff positions are posted

**Agenda Item VII: Standing, ad Hoc, and University Committee Reports**

* Tricia shared who is on what committee

# Agenda Item VIII: Question and Answer Period.

* Question about orientation for new staff council reps

# Agenda Item IX: Unfinished Business

# None

# Agenda Item X: New Business

* Lauren Gronke – IU Indy Athletics
* If units want to come to games, reach out to Lauren for tickets
* Discussed upcoming events and games
* Tickets are fully virtual now
* IUIndyJags.com

# Agenda Item XI: [Action Item] Closing Remarks and Adjournment

# The meeting was adjourned. The next Staff Council meeting will be Sept 17, 2025, University Library Lilly Auditorium.