Staff Council FAQs

Who is on Staff Council?

Staff Council is comprised of 12 elected members. There are two members from each UMCES unit, one primary/voting member and one alternate/non-voting member.

Who is eligible?

Any full-time or part-time (50% or more) exempt staff employee, non-exempt staff employee excluded from the collective bargaining agreement, and contingent II employees may be elected as a member of the Staff Council.

How long do members serve?

Each member will serve two years. Elections are staggered so that three labs will elect new members every other year. If a voting member is unable to serve the full two years, the alternate member for that unit will assume the responsibilities of a voting member.

How often does the Council meet and where?

Staff Council meets every other month. However, there may be special meetings that are called in off-months to discuss time-sensitive issues.

Meetings usually occur via IVN or conference call, but once a year, the Council will meet in person in a centrally-located place.

What responsibilities are there?

Members are to attend all meetings. If a member consistently misses meetings, the Council can vote to remove the member.

All members, both voting and alternate, are encouraged to participate in discussions and on any committees. Current committees are: Communications, Board of Regents Staff Award, and Staff Day.

Alternate members are not allowed to vote unless the voting member from their institution is not present and the absent voting member grants voting privileges to the alternate. Alternates will assume the role of a voting member if the voting member steps down from the Council.

Voting members are eligible and should be willing to participate in the Council of University System Staff (CUSS), which involves traveling to monthly meetings rotating among each USM institution. UMCES has four CUSS representatives (2 primary/voting and 2 alternates). All CUSS representatives are expected to participate in all CUSS meetings and each UMCES member is required to serve on a CUSS committee as well as participate in evaluating USM Board of Regents Staff Award packets for recommendation to the Board of Regents.
What kinds of issues do you discuss?

Staff Council serves as a voice for all UMCES staff members regardless of whether they are eligible to serve on the Council or not. Staff Council also serves as a liaison between the USM through CUSS members and UMCES administration through participation in Administrative Council meetings. Therefore, our discussions can vary from meeting to meeting. During the 2016-2017 term, we provided input to Chancellor Caret and the search committee for the new president of UMCES. We also discuss issues such as communication to improve cohesion and efficiency among staff members throughout UMCES, how to improve morale among UMCES staff, and how to compete with larger USM institutions for Board of Regents Staff Awards. Additionally, all staff members are able to submit issues of concern via the Staff Council website.