

**P&S
Council**

News

Spring 2024

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Rod Library's exclusive access for PS Staff

Rod Library is your library, too!

Rod Library welcomes all P&S staff, offering a wealth of resources and services for both professional and personal enrichment. Your UNI ID serves as your library card, granting access to a vast array of online resources around the clock with your CatID.

The library now provides an all-access subscription to The New York Times. To activate your access, follow the steps outlined in the library's [NYT guide](#). This subscription includes the mobile app and full access to content such as recipes, product reviews from Wirecutter, games, news, and sports coverage.

Additional offerings include the Makerspace, equipped with craft supplies, sewing machines, a Silhouette cutting machine, and various other materials at no cost. The library also features numerous spaces available for reservation for both professional and personal purposes. P&S staff also enjoy access to the library's diverse collections, which include leisure DVDs, a Youth Collection with children's books, and the Cedar Falls Public Library Collection available on campus.

Through a partnership with Cedar Falls Public Library (CFPL), Rod Library offers a selection of CFPL's collections on-site and access to most of its services and collections with a CFPL library card. All members of the UNI community, regardless of their Cedar Falls residency, can obtain a CFPL card at the Library Services Desk, allowing access to CFPL's online music, books, and other collections.

Rod Library also hosts the annual RodCon, a family-friendly mini-comic convention open to P&S staff, their families, and the public. RodCon 2024 is set for Saturday, April 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., promising a day of fun and engagement for attendees.



Know your benefits.

Did you know the average cost of treatment at a physician's office is \$116, compared with \$1,047 in an emergency room? At UNI, where self-insured healthcare plans are in place, choosing non-emergency treatment options when feasible significantly helps maintain lower healthcare premiums.

When should you go to an urgent care facility instead of an emergency room?

URGENT CARE	EMERGENCY ROOM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allergic Reactions (Minor)• Animal & Insect Bites• Asthma Attack (Minor)• Back Pain & Headaches (Minor)• Bronchitis/Sore Throat• Burns (Minor) & Stitches• Cold, Cough, and Flu• Digestive Issues & Skin Conditions• Ear, Eye or Sinus Pain• Fever• Infections (Including UTIs)• Mental/Behavioral Health• Sprains, Strains, & (Minor) Broken Bones	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High Fever with Headache or Stiff Neck• Loss of Consciousness• Major Injury• Overdose• Poisoning• Seizure• Severe Allergic Reaction• Signs of Heart Attack or Stroke• Spine Injury• Sudden Severe Headache• Suicidal or Self-Harming Thoughts• Trouble Breathing <p>*The above also pertains to 911 calls</p>

Additionally, telemedicine services can offer a convenient alternative, reducing exposure and costs. For more details and guidance on when to use these services, along with a list of urgent care centers, their locations, and hours, visit the HRS website at <https://hrs.uni.edu/mybenefits/choose> and <https://hrs.uni.edu/mybenefits/urgentcare>.



Welcome New Hires!

I want to extend a warm welcome to our new Professional & Scientific staff hires. We're excited to have you joining us at UNI, and look forward to helping you succeed!

- Kristina Kofoot, P&S Council President

October 2023

Allison Bredman, *Financial Aid Counselor, Financial Aid*

Jacob Ferguson, *Instructional Development Specialist, Continuing Education & Special Programs*

Gabriel Forero Villamizar, *Suzuki Instructor, School of Music*

Rebecca Hildebrand, *Marketing Manager, College of Humanities, Arts & Sciences*

Melissa Mendenhall, *Assoc Dir Clinical Services & Training, Mental Health Services*

Sierra Ruden, *Financial Aid Counselor/Retention & Outreach, Financial Aid*

Megan Studer, *Digital Content & Social Media Specialist, University Relations*

Allison Walz, *Annual Giving Coordinator, Development & Foundation*

November 2023

Jordan Eshelman, *Educational Counselor, Educational Talent Search - Cedar Rapids*

Kristen Toppin, *Program Associate, Family Business Center*

December 2023

Mariia Kuklina, *Postdoctoral Scholar, Geography*

Colleen Morrissey, *Admissions Counselor, Admissions*

Caroline Rankin, *Director of Development/CHAS, Development & Foundation*

Alissa Spidell, *Director of Development/CSBS, Development & Foundation*

Jacob Wiedrich, *Athletics Marketing Director, Athletics Promotions & Marketing*

January 2024

Bailey Knowlton, *CRM Support Specialist, Admissions*

Christian Mauer, *Digital Content & Social Media Specialist, CHAS*

Megan Ries, *Mental Health Case Coordinator, Mental Health Services*

Angie Wolff, *Mental Health Case Coordinator, Mental Health Services*



Save the Date!

TC “The Celebration” Day - April 23, 2024

TC Day, formally known as Tropical Celebration Day, will be held on Tuesday, April 23. Watch your inbox for more information.

Meet Our Members

Anton Reiter

Assistant Learning Spaces Specialist - Educational Technology & Media Services

Describe the best trip you have experienced.

In the winter of 2022, I took a trip to Scottsdale, Arizona to be a part of my good friend's wedding. I flew with, rode with, and stayed with a group of longtime friends that I don't get to see very often. Nearly every memory from that trip is a joyful one, from lounging in the pool or by a fire at our Airbnb, to exploring Camelback Mountain, to watching our buddy get married. It was only 4 days, but I made memories that will last a lifetime.

What are you good at doing?

I believe that I am a go-getter, willing to dive in and learn as I go. I'm not afraid to fail along the way, as failure is a part of any process. I also think I'm good at listening and formulating ideas and plans in an objective and logical way.

Do you have a favorite podcast? Favorite music?

I am a big fan of the podcast Last Podcast on the Left (NSFW), as well as Conan O'Brien Needs a Friend. Both are funny in their own right, with Last Podcast being a bit more raunchy and dealing with some macabre subject matter, and Conan O'Brien being one of my favorite people to listen to with his wit and self-deprecating humor. I really enjoy all styles of music, with my 5 favorite groups being Ghost, The Story So Far, OK Go, Mariana's Trench, and Kasey Musgraves.

What was the last thing you read?

Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss. It's a fantasy story following the life of Kvothe, a barkeep in a small town with a big secret history. He chronicles his story to an author of his life filled with love, death, triumph and heartbreak. It's a fantastic book, with even the mundane aspects like school and earning a living being written in a way that is engaging and exciting. Highly recommend. Forewarning though - the author stated the book is the 1st book in a trilogy, and while the sequel is out, it has been 10 years since he's done anything with the story and has stated that he's struggling to wrap the story up, so there is a chance that the story could never be completed as it should be. So be aware of that.

What is your favorite UNI memory or tradition?

As a student, one of my favorite memories happened during orientation, when I sat down in McCleod and looked down on the court and felt truly at home. I had toured a few campuses across the state, but none had "that feeling." I'm not even sure what brought on said feeling in that moment, but I knew I had chosen the right school, and my feelings went from that of apprehension and nervousness to excitement and comfort. As a staff member, my favorite memory is the spring 2021 commencement ceremony. It was the first commencement ceremony back in person since COVID had begun more than a year prior. I assist the Media Services team with the events, and this one was special partially because it was so great to see people back together again, but also because it took place in the Dome and had all the graduates in one place in a spring ceremony for the first time since I'd begun working at

UNI. It was so great to see all the graduates and their loved ones fill the iconic Dome, and it bums me out that it hasn't happened since.

Safe Zone Ally training

Registration is now open for Safe Zone Ally training sessions for fall 2023. This training, offered in two phases, supports UNI's value of cultivating a caring and diverse campus community that values respect for all people, the open and free exchange of ideas, and responsible and ethical behavior.

Monday, Oct. 3 - In person

Phase One: 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Phase Two: 1 - 3 p.m.

Monday 11/13 - Virtual via Zoom

Phase One: 2:30 - 4 p.m.

Thursday 11/16 - Virtual via Zoom

Phase Two: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

[Read more about the program](#)

Upcoming events

TC Day

Tuesday, April 23

“The Celebration” Day, formally Tropical Celebration Day, will consist of university-wide activities for students, faculty and staff.

P&S Council Meetings (Rod Library 301)

February 8 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

March 14 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

April 11 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

May 9 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Jun 13 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Jul 11 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Have ideas on where future P&S Council social events should be held? Email them to [Dan Breitbach](#).

Meeting Recaps

October 2023

Hillery Oberle, Asst VP Strategy, Comm & Campaigns

Topic: Update on the Our Tomorrow Campaign

President's Cabinet Report - Michael Hager, Ph.D.

Things are going well with the UNIWorks (Workday) implementation project. UNI's four-year graduation rate this year is at 51%, which is the highest in institutional history. The bookstore will be temporarily closed after Homecoming to aid in the transition to Follett.

HRS Report - Michelle Byers

Open Enrollment starts on November 1st. HRS is currently working with the P&S Council Policies & Procedures Committee on revisions to policies 5.21, 5.23, and 5.24.

Communications Committee Report - Sara Kies/J.C. Last

The Fall 2023 newsletter was sent out the last week of September. Anybody who would like to propose a topic of discussion for the P&S Council can submit their ideas on the Council website using the feedback form - <https://pscouncil.uni.edu/contact-us>

Employee Relations Committee - Kristina Kofoot

We need a new chair for this committee. If you have any interest in serving as a chair or co-chair of this committee, please send an email to pscouncilpres@uni.edu

New Business

The Council is looking to set up an ad hoc committee to work through updating the P&S Council Constitution to replace our current structure of having a Council President and Vice-President with one that has a Past President, President, and President-elect. This would match what the other Regent's institutions P&S Councils already have in place.

November 2023

Marty Mark, *Chief Information Officer, IT-Office of the CIO*

Michael Hager, *Senior Vice President, Finance & Operations*

Topic: Update on the Workday Implementation Project

President's Cabinet Report — Michael Hager, Ph.D.

The Board of Regents meeting on November 15th-16th will be held on UNI's campus. UNI received a \$25 million donation from the Wilson family, and the College of Business will be renamed to the Wilson College of Business.

HRS Report - Michelle Byers

Open enrollment is ongoing until November 30th and information can be found on the HRS website at <https://hrs.uni.edu/oe>

Salary & Fringe Benefits Committee – Nathan Arndt

A request has been made to present the annual P&S salary increase recommendation letter to President Nook earlier than in years past. The group will be meeting soon to draft that letter.

Old Business

This year's winners of the Regent's Staff Excellence Award are Nick Sullivan, Cassie Luze, and Melissa Engdahl.

December 2023

Theresa Westbrook, *Dean of Library Services*

Colleen Mulholland, *Dean of the College of Education*

Topic: Teacher Education and Collaboration Hub (TEACH) Project

President's Cabinet Report — Michael Hager, Ph.D.

Bob Bowsby has been named as UNI's Interim Athletic Director.

University Counsel Tim McKenna will be retiring, and Anne Bilder has been hired as the new University Counsel.

HRS Report - Michelle Byers

The Open Enrollment period has ended. Cat Wilken will be leaving UNI, and Jesse Heath has been hired as the new Employee Relations Coordinator.

Employee Relations Committee - Nathan Arndt

We still need a new chair for this committee. If you have any interest in serving as a chair or co-chair of this committee, please send an email to pscouncilpres@uni.edu

Old Business

An ad hoc committee was created to draft proposals for updates to the P&S Council Constitution.

January 2024

President's Cabinet Report — Michael Hager, Ph.D.

The governor has submitted a suggested budget to the State legislature.

HRS Report - Michelle Byers

New Wellmark insurance cards are being sent out to UNI employees.

Employee Relations Committee - Nathan Arndt

We still need a new chair for this committee. If you have any interest in serving as a chair or co-chair of this committee, please send an email to pscouncilpres@uni.edu

Salary & Fringe Benefits Committee – Nathan Arndt

The group will be submitting the annual P&S salary increase recommendation letter to President Nook on January 17th.

New Business

The ad hoc committee on Constitutional updates is working on drafting the proposed amendments and will have them ready to share at the February P&S Council meeting.

P&S Council Representatives

Academic Affairs

- [Nathan Arndt](#), Vice President
- [Nickole Dillard](#)
- [Kristina Kofoot](#), President
- [Todd Parsons](#)
- [Chris Shaw](#)
- (Vacant Seat)

Finance & Operations

- [Traci Buseman](#)
- [Dawnell Johnson](#)

President's Division

- [Andrea Greve Coello](#)
- [Sara Kies](#)
- [Tony Rath](#)
- [Anton Reiter](#)

Student Life

- [Janel Alleyne](#)
- (Vacant Seat)

University Advancement

- [Dan Breitbach](#)

- [Amy Mohr](#)

At-Large

- [Molly Taiber](#)



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