

**P&S
Council**

News

Fall 2024

- / Welcome new hires
- / Know your benefits: Blue365® health and wellness deals
- / Upcoming events
- / Regents Staff Excellence Awards
- / Meet our members
- / P&S Council meeting recaps
- / P&S Council representatives



Welcome New Hires!

A huge welcome to all our new P&S Panthers! We are excited to have you join us and look forward to helping you as you grow in your new position. My door is always open and I hope you stop by to ask questions or just say hello.

- Nathan Arndt, P&S Council President

July 2024

Rochelle Adkins, *Postaward Specialist, Research & Sponsored Programs*

Joel Filani, *Asst Football Coach, Football*

Lucas Johnson, *Residence Life Coordinator, Housing*

Megan Pezley, *IASourcelink Program Coordinator, John Pappajohn Entrepreneurial Center*

Amanda Sanderman, *Asst Dean of Assessment & Clinical Experiences, COE Academic Advising & Teacher Education Success*

Seth Vickers, *Educational Technologist, IT - Educational Technology & Media Services*

August 2024

Kedar Bhatt, *Controls System Administrator, Utilities & Power Plant*

Ashleigh Durant, *Interior Designer, Design & Construction*

Ike Hermer, *Video Coordinator, Men's Basketball*

Steven Jokinsky, *Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Social & Behavioral Research*

Roxanne Lintz, *Assistant Manager Retail, Maucker Union Food Court*

Anjuli Myers, *RAPIL Coordinator, College of Education*

Scott Peace, *Senior Assoc AD/Revenue Generation, Athletics Administration*

Christie Poppe, *Director of Risk Management, Environmental Health & Safety*

Wilson Rojas, *Assistant Director Emerging & Innovative Technologies, Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning*

Keith Sayles, *Director, Classic Upward Bound*

Anna Vaagensmith, *Data Collection & Grants Manager, Geography*

Jacy Werning, *Digital Communications Specialist, University Advancement*

September 2024

Ozzie Adams, *Assistant Coach, Softball*

Mevlina Beganovic, *Asst Child Development Specialist, Child Development Center*

Caleb Bendull, *Piano Technician, School of Music*

Kelby Homeister, *Campus Programs Coordinator, Student Involvement & Event Services*

Emma Husome, *Mental Health Therapist, Mental Health Services*

Andrew James, *Director Foundry 4.0 Center & Metal Casting Center, Applied Engineering & Technical Mgmt*

Deidra Johnson, *Director of Operations & Player Development, Women's Basketball*

Jamie Jones, *Assistant Director Marketing, University Relations*

Ryan Miller, *Assistant Manager Dining, Piazza*

Stephanie Ramos, *Suzuki Instructor, School of Music*

Jerry Wollmering, *Senior Associate AD/CFO for Athletics, Athletics Administration*



Know your benefits:

Blue365® health and wellness deals

Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield's Blue365® offers health and wellness discounts to its members. Some deals will give you a coupon code instantly on the Blue365® site. This coupon code can be applied directly to a purchase on a vendor's website or will provide a discounted option on a product or service. Other deals may take you to a vendor's website directly to make a discounted purchase or enroll in a special discounted program instantly.

Examples include Skechers Direct, Philips Sonicare, Blue Apron, Hertz Rent-a-Car, Crocs, Garmin and more!

Eligibility

If you are enrolled in one of UNI's self-insured health plans you are eligible for savings through the Blue Cross and/or Blue Shield Companies member discounts.

Blue365® Discount Categories

- Fitness
- Healthy Eating
- Personal Care
- Lifestyle
- Financial Health
- Wellness

Visit <https://www.blue365deals.com/offers> to start exploring!

Upcoming events

Study Abroad Fair

September 18

Join the SAC for our annual [Study Abroad Fair & Passport Day](#). Meet past participants, course leaders and study abroad staff. Learn about our wide variety of programs in over 30 different countries. Apply for or renew your U.S. passport at these events!

Cedar Falls Downtown District Street Party

September 21

Mark your calendars for the second annual [Downtown District Street Party](#)! Main Street will be closed for the programming and activities. All are welcome to enjoy the event. From giant yard games and a silent disco to pickleball and live music, there will be plenty of entertainment and activities to enjoy. There will be no cost to attend, with the exception of purchasing the Street Party koozie for those who wish to drink.

School of Music Scholarship Benefit Concert: *Welcome Home*

September 27

Join us for the 43rd Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert: Welcome Home! We're planning an evening of exceptional performances by UNI faculty, students, and returning alumni, featuring a wide range of works, composers and performers aimed at highlighting the incredibly talented School of Music alumni in collaboration with our current students and faculty. [Learn more and buy tickets here](#).

Faculty & Staff Appreciation Athletic Events

Watch your email for a link to claim your free tickets to the October 11th Volleyball game vs the Belmont Bruins and November 9th Football game vs Illinois State. Fill the stands and support your student athletes.



UNI Homecoming: Show Us How You Panther

October 21-26

Join us as we celebrate all of our unique students, alumni, family, fans and friends during a variety of Homecoming 2024 activities, including a

performance by The Pork Tornadoes. [Learn more and view the schedule here.](#)

P&S Council Meetings (Rod Library 301)

October 10 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

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

December 12 - 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Have ideas for locations for future P&S Council socials? Email [Dan Breitbach.](#)



Regents Staff Excellence Awards

We are now accepting nominations for the Regents Staff Excellence Awards! All nominations must be submitted by 4:30 PM on Monday, October 7th.

Please consider nominating a colleague for a Regents Staff Excellence Awards. The awards are presented annually to those P&S employees from Regents institutions who have made outstanding professional contributions during their careers. Any Regent employee (at any Regent institution and of any classification) may nominate a P&S employee for this award. Candidates must have been employed at least half-time for a minimum of five years as a P&S staff member at the University. Nominations must be for a single individual- we do not accept nominations for a team of employees.

Nominations can be submitted here:

<https://pscouncil.uni.edu/regents-professional-scientific-staff-excellence-award>

Please feel free to share this nomination process and save the date for December 10th from Noon - 1:00 PM for our recognition event.



Meet Our Members



Tristan Aldous

Student Financials Counselor, Business Operations

Describe the best trip you have experienced.

Best trip I experienced recently was actually part of a conference in Las Vegas back in March of this year. I met a friend at the same conference a year before, and we met up at this one to stay an extra day to walk around the strip to see the Sphere, some casinos, the Vanderpump Cocktail Garden, and watch the Vegas Golden Knights ice hockey team (one of my favorite teams ever). We had an absolute blast!

What are you good at doing?

Public speaking and probably reading and writing. I majored in communication studies where I completed presentations, essays, papers and reports all the time. I thrive in presentations and as long as I know my material, I can present in front of large groups of people. I read about 15-20 books on average per month (and I love reading so that helps).

Do you have a favorite podcast? Favorite music?

I love the Crime Junkie and You Should Know podcasts. Typically, pop music is where all my favorite songs are at; Sabrina Carpenter is a recent artist I've enjoyed listening to. The new "Twisters" movie soundtrack has also been on repeat since I watched the movie!

What was the last thing you read?

“So This Is War” by Meghan Quinn. I'm new to this author, but she always comes up on my recommended reads. The story is phenomenal and is so funny, I laughed out loud many times. I will definitely be reading more of her books. I'm a huge fan of sports romance, especially hockey romances, and this fits the bill.

What is your favorite UNI memory or tradition?

My favorite recent UNI memory is that the first student employee I ever hired in 2021 (still with us until the end of fall 2024) finished in the top 5 in the Student Employee of the Year awards for 2024. This student employee has been with me basically from when I first started in my current role, and they've grown and learned so much. It was amazing to see them be recognized and for them to see the value they bring to me and our office.

Meeting Recaps

June 2024

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

- No report

HRS Report - Michelle Byers

- Fiscal year 2025 salary letters will be available in eBusiness soon, but will only be available for a limited time due to the UNI Works conversion. The salary can be viewed in UNI Works, but not the letter. Revisions are being finalized for policy 4.75 – Staff Tuition Reimbursement.

Salary & Fringe Benefits Committee - Nathan Arndt

- Salary letters will be coming out this month. Individuals will be notified if they are moving from salary to hourly due to the FLSA changes. It is currently being challenged in the courts.

Communications Committee - J.C. Last

- The summer newsletter was sent out this morning – contact J.C. if you did not receive it. Thank you to all who contributed to the newsletter. The next newsletter will be sent in the 1st or 2nd week of September. The new website is live, but additional updates are being made, hopefully by the end of the month. Let J.C. know if you have experience with updating Drupal websites and are able to help.

Employee Relations Committee - Kristina Kofoot (Interim)

- We are looking for people to join this committee.

Policies & Procedures Committee - Dan Breitbach

- The committee is working on P&S policies and procedures and looking at how they run parallel to the university policies.

President's Report - Kristina Kofoot

- We are looking at interest for a summer meet and greet for P&S staff. Let Nathan know if you are interested in organizing or participating. A reminder will be sent to our Council members to establish a proxy for the next year. As an elected Council member, you can miss three times without a proxy before you are replaced on the Council. Let Kristina know if you need help finding a proxy.

Old Business

- Council Constitution changes: The changes have been approved by the President's office and are now active. There will be a Past President, President, and President Elect.
- Approval of April minutes: A motion was given to approve the minutes as presented. Vote taken and motion carried.
- Regents meeting update from late April: Nathan gave an update on the meeting. Some topics of discussion were staff burnout and DEI.

New Business

- Elections for Council leadership – President and President Elect: Nathan accepted the nomination for President. Vote taken and

motion carried. Nickole accepted the nomination for President Elect. Vote taken and motion carried.

- New co-chair Communications Committee: Jesse Heath has volunteered to be the co-chair.
- Chair for Salary and Fringe Benefits Committee: This committee needs an elected Council member to serve as chair.
- 150th Anniversary: The 2025-26 academic year will be UNI's sesquicentennial. We will work on putting together a history of the P&S Council, and think about ideas of how we can be a part of celebrating the sesquicentennial.

July 2024

Guest Speaker - None

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

- Campus is in construction mode; Refer to this [map](#) for the summer 2024 projects. Phase 1 of the nursing renovation is ready to go for this fall. UNI Works is live; while there is a learning curve, exceptionally positive feedback received so far; training is in process; download the mobile app. Christie Poppe will join UNI 8/5/24 as Director of Risk Management.

HRS Report - Michelle Byers

- Some data will not migrate from E-business, including pay slips and W-2s; if needed, download these by end of July. Three chapter 5 policies plus the FMLA policy were updated earlier this year with July 1 effective dates; IT is updating the policies website to remove "current version" and only display the policy as of July 1. Remember to do your [Day 1 tasks](#) in UNIWorks.

Salary & Fringe Benefits Committee - Nathan Arndt

- Looking for a committee chair; reach out to Nathan Arndt if interested.

Communications Committee - J.C. Last

- Jesse Heath is joining the committee as co-chair. 3 new committee members: Katie Kreis-Voigt, Anna Flanders, and

Caroline Francis. Website has been updated to reflect accurate member listing.

Employee Relations Committee - Kristina Kofoot

- Starting to work on nominations for Regents Staff Excellence Award and working on fall event.

Policies & Procedures Committee - Dan Breitbach

- Conducting a side by side comparison between P&S policies and University policies to determine if specific P&S policies are needed to avoid duplication.

President's Report - Nathan Arndt

- None

Old Business

- Salary notification: Salary notifications were sent out. These can be reviewed in E-business through the end of July.
- Approval of June minutes: A motion was given by Janel Alleyne to approve the minutes as presented. Molly Taiber seconded. Vote taken and motion carried.
- August social event: Looking to hold an August get-together.

New Business

- New Committee Chairs: Looking for committee chairs, please contact Nathan Arndt if interested.
- b. Iowa State Fair: If interested in [representing UNI at the state fair](#), contact UR.

August 2024

Guest Speaker - Jesse Heath, HR

- Jesse discussed a new program that will be a pilot mentorship program to help connect seasoned employees and younger professionals to aid in professional growth for the individuals. The expectation is for mentors and learners to meet once per month for one hour. The qualifications to be considered as a mentor is five or more years as a professional staff member and the

qualifications to be qualify as a Learner is to have less than 10 years as a professional staff member. The goal is to create success with this program so that it can continue to carry forward in future years.

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

- UNIWorks is live and the first payroll cycle is complete. High compliments from contributors on how well UNI implemented the transition to UNIWorks.

HRS Report - Michelle Byers

- Just a quick reminder to ensure that everyone updates/completes their [Day 1 tasks](#) in UNIWorks (Direct Deposit information, W-4 tax elections and person information).

Salary & Fringe Benefits Committee - Nathan Arndt

- No report.

Communications Committee - J.C. Last

- Jesse Heath is joining the committee as co-chair. 3 new committee members: Katie Kreis-Voigt, Anna Flanders, and Caroline Francis. There was a meeting on August 9th to work on the P&S Council newsletter. The newsletter should be released in early September.

Employee Relations Committee - Dawnell Johnson

- There was a new Assistant Director of Marking hired to work within University Relations.

Policies & Procedures Committee - Dan Breitbach

- Regents universities will announce enrollment numbers on September 12th. Also, there will be collaboration and work with the committee and the University to create new objectives.

President's Report - Nathan Arndt

- No report.

Old Business

- Approval of July minutes: A motion was given by Anton Reiter to approve the minutes as presented. Katie Kreis-Voigt seconded. Vote taken and motion carried.

New Business

- Payroll: First payroll went through UNIWorks and was successful.
- Approval to establish a committee for the P&S Conference: Anton and Tristan voted to approve this motion.
- Committee Members: P&S Conference in May 2025. Looking for interested volunteers to join the committee. Please contact Jesse Heath at jesse.heath@uni.edu if you would like to serve on this committee.

P&S Council Representatives

Academic Affairs

- [Nathan Arndt](#), President
- [Bethany Botchway](#)
- [Nickole Dillard](#), Vice-President
- [Kristina Kofoot](#), Past-President
- [Katie Kreis-Voigt](#)
- [Chris Shaw](#)

Finance & Operations

- [Tristan Aldous](#)
- [Jesse Heath](#)

President's Division

- [Andrea Greve Coello](#)
- [Mary Grieger](#)
- [Anton Reiter](#)
- (Vacant Seat)

Student Life

- [Janel Alleyne](#)
- [Dawnell Johnson](#)

University Advancement

- [Dan Breitbach](#)
- [Amy Mohr](#)

At-Large

- [Molly Taiber](#)



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