



University Business Policies and Procedures Manual

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STAFF COUNCIL

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1. General

The Staff Council represents staff employees of The University of New Mexico as a voice in the governance of the University. It is an elected body of sixty (60) staff members representing both job grades and work areas. The Staff Council Constitution and the Staff Council Bylaws fully spell out the role of the Council. These can be obtained from the office of the University ~~Secretary~~ *Staff Council Office*, which provides support to the Staff Council and maintains the current membership of the Staff Council and its committees.

2. Objectives

The following are specific objectives of the Staff Council. This list comes from the Staff Council Bylaws and is not an all inclusive list.

- Participate in the formulation of institutional long-range plans, goals, and strategies.
- Develop programs and activities promoting professional and personal growth, and advancement.
- Advise in decisions about resource allocations, salaries, and benefits.
- Represent staff in the planning of improved workplace conditions and other means of enhancing and promoting productivity.
- Facilitate communications among staff, faculty, and students.
- Provide a forum for the discussion of the general staff welfare.
- Provide a resource for participation in major decisions of the University as they affect University staff.
- Maintain liaisons with officially recognized representative groups on campus.

3. Elections

Elections are held annually in the spring with one-half (1/2) of the Staff Council elected each year. In the event of a vacancy, the Speaker of Staff Council shall nominate a replacement from among the staff members in the vacant grade or precinct. Nominees shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Council members present before they are an official member. Nominees shall serve for the remainder of the elected term to which they were appointed.

3.1. Membership

Regular full-time and part-time staff employees who have completed six (6) months of

service at the University are eligible for election to the Staff Council. Elected members shall serve two (2) year terms. All employees are encouraged to participate in Staff Council and other University governance activities, either through elected service on the Staff Council or through service on the many Staff Council or University committees.

3.1.1. Precincts and Grades

Each member of the Staff Council represents a specific University precinct and/or grade. A total of thirty (30) members are elected to represent precincts. Precincts are generally composed of all staff employees in a department, school, or college, hereafter referred to as a unit. Larger units may have more than one (1) member elected to the Council. Precinct representatives are elected in even numbered years.

A total of thirty (30) members are elected to represent grades. Grades are determined by the employee's position. Grade representatives are elected in odd numbered years.

4. Officers

The Staff Council shall elect from its membership a President, a President-elect, a Speaker, and a Treasurer.

4.1. Executive Committee

An Executive Committee shall be established and composed of Staff Council members, including the President, the President-Elect, Speaker, Treasurer, two (2) Members-at-Large representing grades, and two (2) Members-at-Large representing precincts. The Executive Committee shall set the agenda for the Staff Council meetings and represent Council decisions to the University administration.

5. Release Time

The University recognizes that service on the Staff Council and on Staff Council committees will take employees away from their work for brief periods of time. To accommodate both the employees and their work areas, the following guidelines are established for granting release time to employees to work on Staff Council business. The release times may not be accrued or used in conjunction with any other time off, such as compensatory time off or annual leave, and are not cumulative from one position to another. These guidelines should be prorated for part-time employees.

- o Employees serving on the Staff Council or as chairs of Staff Council committees will be given release time of three (3) hours a week.
- o Employees serving on Staff Council committees, but who are not elected members of the Staff Council, will be given release time of two (2) hours a week.
- o Employees who are elected to serve on the Staff Council Executive Committee will be given release time of five (5) hours a week.
- o Because of the much greater demands on their time, the president-elect and the Speaker of the Staff Council will be given release time of up to eight (8) hours a week, and the president of the Staff Council will be given release time of up to ten (10) hours a week.

The release times mentioned above are the average for a given week over the period of a month. It is recognized that in some weeks the demands of service may be greater than is required in other weeks, and supervisors are encouraged to make provisions for these instances.

5.1. Exceptions to Release Time

Staff members serving in any of the capacities in **Section 5**, herein, along with their supervisors, recognize that there will be rare occasions when the demands of their workplace are such that they may not be able to physically attend Staff Council or committee meetings.

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