



# GENESEE STAFF COUNCIL

## Meeting Agenda: October 6, 2023

Zoom Link: <https://rochester.zoom.us/j/93388033820>

**9:00 – 9:35 AM – Welcome, Housekeeping, Announcements**

- Group Norms
- Council voting process overview
- Approval of August and September meeting minutes
- Updates from Co-Chairs

**9:35 – 9:55 AM – Well-being for Life and Learning training program for faculty and staff with UHS Director Amy McDonald**

(<https://www.rochester.edu/uhs/healthpromotion/training/>)

***9:55 – 10:05 AM – Break***

**10:05 – 11:10 AM – Council priority setting and committee service discussion**

***11:10 – 11:15 AM – Break***

**11:15 – 11:30 AM – Council Co-Chair election**

**11:30 – Noon – Wrap-Up**

- Matters arising
- Summary, wrap up, and takeaways
- Good news

*Attendees:* Co-Chair Jon Powers, Co-Chair Amanda Sharpe, Melinda Adelman, Chennel Anderson, Laura Ballou, Rachel Bills, Kristi Brock, Jamie Brown, Leah Brown, Jane Bryant, Amanda Carter, Karen Cera, Lindsay Chasse, Marisa Chiodo, Leslie Collison, Kris Condello, Jazmin Dunham, Maria Fagnano, Scott Fearing, Mary Hallinan, Shari Hofmann, Arian Horbovetz, Austin Jackson, Aaron Landcastle, David Lanni, Hannah McClow, Patrick Meagher, Darrin Meszler, Andria Mutrie, Michael Occhino, Ted Pagano, Katie Papas, Brenda Pitoni, Nate Ridley, Lauren Sageer, Marc Seigfred, Sarah Siddiqui, Ashley Smith, Rachel Stuckey, Jessica Syposs, Dan Watts

*Guests:* Amy McDonald

*Co-Chair Amanda Sharpe welcomed the group to the meeting and reviewed the day's agenda and group norms, including Zoom etiquette (use chat feature as much as you like, use "raise hand" feature when we are having open conversation, make sure your full name is listed, cameras should be turned on as much as possible, unmute before speaking, all monthly meetings are recorded).*

*Co-Chair Jon Powers reviewed the voting process for various motions. A quorum of 2/3 voting members is needed in order to hold a vote. A majority of voting members present is needed to pass most votes. We essentially follow Robert's Rules. Katie Papas is our Parliamentarian and ensures we comply with the voting rules. August and September meeting minutes were approved by the present Council members.*

### **Co-Chair Updates**

*Amanda Sharpe:* Teams engagement has been great so far. We encourage you to continue checking Teams regularly. We have seen district emails to go out from most districts, but not all. Please let us know if you have done that using something other than the listserv. Please put a copy of any district communications in the "District Communications" folder in the General Channel on Teams.

*Jon Powers:* The [gsc@lists.rochester.edu](mailto:gsc@lists.rochester.edu) email address goes to all GSC Reps. We usually use that list to send out agendas or announcements. If you reply to that email, it goes to everyone on the Council. Amanda and I went to the Faculty Senate Exec Committee meeting recently to give an overview of who the GSC is and answer some questions about our format. We also meet monthly with the Faculty Senate Co-Chairs. This month, we talked about the Meliora weekend speaker, and the Faculty Senate benefits committee that has stalled. We are discussing whether they plan to re-invigorate that committee, which we have representation on.

*Amanda Sharpe:* The Co-Chairs also attended the University Management Team meeting. It was highly focused on the Strategic Plan. They're making sure everyone is familiar with the plan and associated goals, and determined next steps. We also attended the "Boundless Together" diversity conference and saw many GSC Reps in attendance.

*Jon Powers:* We also met with Kathy Gallucci (VP/CHRO) and Dan Salamone (one of the leaders of the Career Path Modernization Project). We provided the staff feedback we all gathered about the wage transparency project. I also attended the Board of Trustees open session. There were some updates regarding the Medical Center—CEO Mark Taubman will be stepping down at the end of this year. There was also some discussion about the Strategic Plan, and the President talked about how this past year was the largest fundraising year we have had.

### **UHS Director Amy McDonald**

*Amy McDonald:* I am the director of the UHS Health Promotion Office, and I'm here to share with you a new training program called Well-Being for Life and Learning, which will teach staff and faculty how to best support the health and well-being needs (especially mental health needs, given the increasing prevalence of mental health issues amongst college students) of our student population across all schools. This is a self-paced training program which includes 4 required and at least 2 elective workshops (generally about 1 hour per workshop, but there are a couple that are a bit longer). We have collaborators across campus who have helped support this training program.

Our goals are to create supportive environments for students, positively impact student health, improve academic success, and mobilize cultural change on campus. We want to ensure that our faculty and staff feel confident in their ability to understand the struggles our students are facing, and know how to support them and refer them to campus resources.

*Melinda Adelman (in chat):* Was this initiative entirely generated by the Health Promotion Office or was HR involved? Other professional development plans in other units (i.e. Warner) have been shot down because HR seems to want to "own" all prof dev experiences.

*Amy McDonald:* Yes, it did come out of UHS. We looped in MyPath at the end when we were determining which platform to use to host it. We do have the support of the Provost.

*Melinda Adelman (in chat):* Is there any sense of how many people were uncomfortable with certain conversations because they felt untrained versus people who were uncomfortable because they did not feel confident that students would actually be able to access and secure assistance (UCC overwhelmed, local mental health practitioner shortage, limited ability to change financial aid, etc)?

*Amy McDonald:* The way we worded the question in the survey, it would be more toward the former. Our student services do have a lot of resources to assist students.

### **Council Priority Setting**

*Jon Powers launched a Zoom whiteboard and asked representatives to add ideas of issues we should tackle as a Council. We will review these ideas, and the Executive Committee will use them to inform our council committees. The group then went into breakout rooms and used padlet to review proposed GSC priorities and previous work, and suggest new/different priorities or actions with examples. Finally, the group went into breakout rooms again to review current operational and ad hoc committees, and suggest ideas for new and/or different committees.*

*Marc Seigfred:* It would be helpful for some sort of a Council function to maintain a list of university resources. For example, the UHS well-being presentation this morning. Capture all of these resources we are aware of.

*Arian Horbovetz:* Transportation is important to the University as a whole. Not just parking, but also how do we provide insight into other transportation options that the University offers? Accessibility (ramps, bike racks, etc.) could also be included in this topic.

*Jon Powers:* It's been a challenge in the past to keep up with the work of committees. One thing we're looking at is possibly having the Secretary role be the "hub" of all of these committees as a check-in point, and that person can bring any concerns to the Executive Committee.

*Amanda Sharpe:* Once the committees are decided, we will have some sort of selection process for you all to choose which committee(s) you would like to join. We do need new members for the Expansion Evaluation Committee, so please reach out to Karen if you are interested (especially new members from the SMD/SON areas).

### **Co-Chair Vote**

*Amanda Sharpe:* The Co-Chairs are expected to lead the Council responsibly and thoughtfully, manage GSC operations, act with diplomacy, commit about 6-8 hours of work time per week, occasionally present to University leadership, represent the GSC in university leadership meetings, and following their term as Co-Chair, will serve as an ex officio advisor for one year.

*Jon Powers:* Our candidates for the Co-Chair role are Jane Bryant (AS&E), Karen Cera (LLE), and Sarah Siddiqui (River Campus Libraries).

*Each candidate gave a short statement, and then the Council voted for the new Council Co-Chair. The majority of members present voted to elect Jane Bryant as the new Council Co-Chair. Congratulations Jane, and thank you to all of the candidates.*

### **Wrap Up**

*Amanda Sharpe:* It is Meliora weekend this weekend, so please consider participating in any of the activities. If you are at any university event, please feel free to take photos and share them. It's always nice to see the network and connections we are creating through the GSC.

*Jon Powers:* You should be meeting in your districts at least once in between each monthly meeting. For districts that have not yet sent out any kind of communication to your constituents, please do so.

*Jon Powers:* A huge, tremendous shout out to Amanda Sharpe. It has been invaluable to work with her and have her guidance. She has been on the Council since the beginning, and we are glad she's staying on as ex officio for another year. Thank you so much Amanda for everything you have done for the Council!

*Amanda Sharpe:* I've spent the last 4 years on the Council, and it has meant so much to represent everyone. I appreciate the trust that you placed in me. I will be here as an ex officio member to answer questions and give guidance for another year. I'm so encouraged by everyone here, and I know you're going to do a great job.