



# University Staff Advisory Council

Minutes

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

[Zoom Link](#)

Tammy Alexander, Pietra Balsamo, Tyler Betzhold, Miriam Blackmon, Ashley Blout, Monica Booker, Amanda Boyd, Hannah Concannon, Matt Dewald, Elizabeth Donaldson, Jessica Duret, Dominique Evans, Kolby Ferguson, Meghan Gill, Aretha Harris, Joy Heizman, Crista Lembeck, Paul Lozo, Mirinda McCants, Sara Morrow, Yahneet Morton, Jess Oliver, Jessie Pascarelli, Liz Prillaman, Samantha Proffit, Olivia Rosebaum, Kirstin Stacia, Maribel Street, Julia Trachtenberg, Mary Wheaton, Justin Woodson, Mina Zatelli

**Jess Oliver called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.**

**Executive Chef & Interim Executive Director of Dining Services, Tyler Betzhold, Heilman Dining Center**

Tyler started at the University of Richmond as a Senior Catering Chef in 2009. He moved into his current role in 2017, when dining operations were shifting their view on food preparation. They wanted to return to making food from scratch and to be intentional about the ingredients used in meals. This required intensive training and rebuilding the program's foundation to how it operates today.

Over the last 2 years, new dining options have been introduced. FlavUR opened at the Well Being Center in April 2024. A year later, 8:15 opened in the Boatwright Library. Dining executes over 2,000 events annually for catering and concessions. Across campus, dining prepares close to a million meals a year. Programming is where they shine, allowing them to be creative outside the norm. Dining executes 30 events a semester, including Demo Kitchens, the Spidery Eats Program, and creating Grab and Go Meals in ETC and 8:15.

Members of the dining team are working with the Sustainability Committee to align dining to the current and future sustainability plans, which include two new initiatives being developed for next year. Included are plans to expand the Heilman Dining Center, including updates to the lobby, dining room, and kitchen, as well as mechanical enhancements. Currently, HDC is ranked #3 in the country!

Comments: Dining services has a dining fair twice a year, in August and January. The next one is August 6<sup>th</sup>, and it's a good opportunity for USAC to meet with dining staff.

## **Paul Lozo, Sr. Assoc Vice President of Campus Operations, Business Affairs**

Pual started as a Maintenance Supervisor for facilities in 1997. He has been with UR for 25 years. Many different departments make up campus operations: Facilities Operations, Facility Business Operations, Architecture and Construction, Dining Services, Campus Business Services, and Sustainability. Over 500 staff work in these departments.

### The Team:

Berkley Miller, Executive Dir. of Facilities Operations: handles maintenance, custodians, electrical, plumbing, team plant, utilities, landscaping, all snow removal, (175 employees)

Meghan Johnston, Director of Finance and Administration: budget management, UR real estate, work control, warehouse and administrative support

Chuck Rogers, University Architect: building space planning and design, renovations (the Library will be completed by August 2026).

Tyler Bezthold, Executive Chef & Interim Executive Director of Dining Services: Dining services (all retail dining locations), Dean's Den in White Hurst.

Jerry Clemmer, Executive Director, Campus Business Services: Includes Print Shop, Spider Shop, One Card Services, the Post Office, Purchasing, Collegiate Licensing, rentals in the Botomly House, and Alumni Center.

Rob Andrejewski, Director of Sustainability: Abby's Graden, the Food Forest, Recycling and Waste, Sustainability Planning, Solar Initiatives

The landscaping team is front lines for snow. Beyond that, the show team is 65 employees in facilities. With the ice storm several weeks ago, it was all hands on deck. The university provided housing for essential personnel.

A question was asked about glue traps for pests: Is there a better way to remove pests, and what alternatives are there? Thought is put into where these traps are located, mainly choosing easy-access points. There is an ongoing conversation with Orkin about the process of collecting pests in glue traps. Orkin is on campus 4-5 times a week. The dining hall has adopted a new process by spraying cinnamon as a safer deterrent.

What is the UR Homes program? There is information on the campus operations [website](#). The university owns about 35 homes around campus. The university sells them to faculty and staff, and purchases them upon moving.

Parking issues continue to be discussed as the university works through the new campus plan.

## **Chair's Report (Jess Oliver)**

The safety series continues with self-defense classes, CPR courses, and the fire safety series. Sign up for classes in Workday. The learning together series kicks off this spring on February 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in Jepson.

Our speaker for the March meeting is unable to join us. If you have suggestions, please reach out to Jess.

USAC will be staff members for the February 25<sup>th</sup> women's basketball game against Rhode Island. Keep an eye out for Spiderbytes for ways to sign up for a free ticket for staff and a guest.

## **Treasury Report and Approval of the Minutes (Mina Zatelli)**

Peitra Basalmo approved the minutes, Mirinda McCants seconded the motion.

### YTD Budget:

Budget: \$5,875

Spent: \$1,895.82

Available: \$3,979.19

## **Reports from Committees and Liaisons**

There were no updates from the Faculty Senate (Cort Schneider), Campus Plan Committee (Monica Booker), Food Service Involvement Team (Amanda Boyd), Communications Committee (Erin Lowery, Mary Wheaton)

- Planning & Priorities (Miriam Blackmon) UR had 17,000 applications. The work that goes into courting people to campus, identifying prospective students, sorting through applications, and ensuring that our education is accessible with financial aid and tuition plans is impressive.
- Benefits Committee (Jess Oliver) Overall, the transition from Cigna to Anthem went smoothly.
- Plant Involvement Team (John Shines) Reminding all not to feed the geese. Unfortunately, there are instances of dog waste not being picked up on the EcoCorridor.
- Events & Engagement (Justin Woodson & Mina Zatelli) Reminded attendees about the Spider Dash, and encouraged folks to join the cheer squad by the chapel. The USAC-sponsored basketball game against Rhode Island was on February 25<sup>th</sup>. Details will be out on Spider Bytes.
- Elections (Yahneet Morton) There are 10 USAC members rolling off this year. Keep an eye out for more information on filling these spots in the coming weeks. Currently reviewing applicants for the Director of Inclusion and Belonging, and hope to have the position filled by the spring.

## **Web Submissions (Mirinda McCants)**

It has been suggested that a daily connection route be created that goes south of the river. There is also a need for clarification around who qualifies as essential personnel and how cost-of-living considerations factor in. Concerns raised by the PIT team included snow team policies and pay rate concerns.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:18 pm

## **Closed Session**

---

Announcements:

The 2026 Outstanding Staff Service Awards are on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, at 2 p.m. in Camp Concert Hall. The annual Spiders in the Know will be on May 13<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am in Camp Concert Hall.

March USAC Meeting, Tuesday, March 10, 1 pm at Tyler Haynes Commons, Room 305, Guest Speaker is Raymond Tucker, Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities and Game Operations.