

September 15, 2026 Meeting Notes

The meeting was called to order by Liz.

Featured Speaker: Rob Andrejewski, Director of Sustainability presenting on the Path to 2027

Rob Andrejewski presented on the University's sustainability efforts and the **Path to 2027**. He began with an open conversation about the "challenges of our time" and discussed the University of Richmond's vision and sustainability goals. The presentation focused on several areas, including **education, behaviors, operational practices, and the processes needed to support those efforts**.

Rob highlighted several current sustainability initiatives and accomplishments across campus. ReThink Waste has received four national awards, and the University now composts more than one million pounds annually. Other topics included volunteer opportunities, the Spider Exchange, accounting for different categories of emissions, and the value of cardboard recycling, which can also generate revenue. Rob concluded his presentation with a poem by Wendell Berry.

Treasury Report and Approval of Minutes

Miriam provided an update regarding the treasury report and previous meeting notes. She apologized that the materials were not yet available and indicated that an update would be provided at the next meeting.

Web Submissions

Yahneet provided the web submissions portion of the agenda.

Web submissions and responses are posted on the USAC website.

Committee and Liaison Reports

The **Faculty Senate** is scheduled to meet Thursday, September 17, 2026.

The **Planning & Priorities Committee** held its introductory meeting, with a conversation about health benefits expected next month.

Jacqueline reported that the **Benefits Committee** has met three times so far and noted that open enrollment is approaching. Laura D. is retiring, and **Paulette Giambalvo** will serve as the new director, joining the University from the City of Richmond. The committee also held an orientation meeting prior to the beginning of the term. Staff members are encouraged to be transparent and share their perspectives with the committee.

The University is self-insured for healthcare. Total costs are approximately **\$23.2 million**, with UR contributing more than **\$16 million** and employees covering the remainder. Stop-loss insurance provides protection against unusually large individual claims. The committee emphasized that it wants to hear directly from staff. We could perhaps create a dedicated time to explaining benefits and taking questions.

There was no **Campus Plan** report.

Ashley provided the **Plant Involvement Team** update. Construction is underway behind Gray Court for the new catering building, and there have been some concerns about community members not following established rules in the construction area. Ashley also noted that the amount of cardboard generated on campus is exceeding available storage space and will raise the possibility of adding a cardboard baler on campus.

Under **Communications**, Erin shared that the committee is beginning a new series of representative spotlights. Council members were also encouraged to follow USAC on social media.

There was no report from **Elections**. Michael is serving as Parliamentarian, and discussion turned to a review of the bylaws. One possibility is to conduct the review through the end of the semester, then begin the new year by considering potential changes. The **January 12 meeting** was identified as a possible date for a more thorough review. Any resulting changes would require a vote.

Chair's Report

Liz distributed a printed form related to bylaw revisions and invited suggestions for possible changes. She also thanked Rob for providing an engaging presentation.

Looking ahead, **Melissa Falk** will speak next month about the enrollment cliff. Planning for a USAC basketball game is also underway.

For **Planning & Priorities** and as an **Athletics Division representative**, Mark is unable to serve, and JaMarcus will take his place. A nomination form for Planning & Priorities should be submitted so that the appointment can be made prior to the **October 13 meeting**.

Finally, Liz presented a list of upcoming events on campus, including the Engage for Change Awards and culinary events around campus.