



## **Staff Council President's Report**

**Board of Trustees**

**May 19, 2023**

**Prepared By**

**Jon Reisenweaver, Staff Council President**

Members of the Board,

I would like to thank Chair Ron Lumbra again for attending our April 4<sup>th</sup> Staff Council meeting of the whole. The feedback received from members and constituents present that it was extremely informative and helpful. It is our hope that this may become a regular event as it will help build a stronger relationship between the Board and Staff Council. Many representatives came away with a better understanding of the role of the Board in guiding the future of the University. Thank you.

Three topics in particular that were discussed are very much entwined; mental health and wellness, increase in workload, financial stability of staff. As mentioned in my previous report that touched on these topics, there is no easy solution. The currently unstable economic situation has led to inflation in numerous key areas of peoples' lives that are directly affecting the mental health of staff on campus. It is up to the President and senior leadership to recognize this and work with all staff and faculty to maintain a healthy ecosystem that is sustainable and thrives for our students. The Board has great responsibility in the long-term health of the University as a whole. It is still relevant for the Board to remember that decisions have impact.

During the most recent collective bargaining efforts of most staff, it was unclear as to the continued viability and relevance of Staff Council. The challenge of remaining cohesive and supportive for everyone regardless of representation was one which our representatives met head on. The Staff Council is continuing to work closely with senior leaders on a multitude of ongoing projects which will benefit staff across the board. In this new environment we are continuing to strengthen our relationships with our constituents, and also to senior leadership with the hopes that through better understanding we will be able to continue to be a strong advisory body for staff to the administration.

The current academic year is ending with another successful group of incredibly talented students graduating on to the rest of their personal and professional lives. Staff have worked diligently with and for our students to ensure their experience here has been the best it could be. Staff have been diligent for their safety, mindful of their living environments and conditions, supportive of their emergent issues, and aware of their needs to ensure they can focus on their education.

This will be my last report to the Board under my current tenure as the Staff Council President. We will have new leadership coming into office that are just as excited to continue working for constituents. It has been an honor and privilege to lead Staff Council. The challenges of leading as we navigated through the pandemic were not done by me alone. I was fortunate to have Vice President Katherine McGinn Hall and Staff Council Office Administrator Alan Shashok to collaborate with. We as a team did our best to

provide stability through such adversity and still make sure meaningful communication between senior leadership and Staff Council representatives did not falter.

Finally, I want to specifically thank the Board, President Garimella, the Faculty Senate, and all of Staff Council for your unwavering commitment to this institution at all levels. Through our continued commitment to our students' success we share a common set of core values. The opportunity to share both positive and negative feedback with you is healthy and vital to maintain strong working partnerships.