

## The First Edition of the USC Newsletter

## Who We Are

### USC MEMBERS

Jill Crary-Gracz  
Karen Dagostino  
Danny Duque  
David Glasser  
Marcus Hotaling  
Amy Kelley  
Tom Lawson  
Patti Quinn  
Sonia Sandoval  
Len Schlegel  
James Strohecker  
Mercedes Susi  
Jill Turner

### By the Numbers

14

Members

25

Meetings Since Inception

4

Meetings with Senior Staff

2

Official Statements released

## Letter from USC Co-Chairs

Dear Campus Community,

As we start this new year, we want to express how grateful we are for the opportunity to represent our staff. As the first iteration of the Union Staff Council, we aim to build a program where employees feel heard and valued so that we can grow through the challenges we face together. We know that this is not easy work. It will take time to build trust.

To this end, we have been able to advise and provide feedback on several policies, from remote work to masking practices. We currently have two active working groups, Employee Recognition and Policy Review. We're excited to publish the first edition of the USC Newsletter. This first edition is to help familiarize you with who we are, what areas we represent, and why we are passionate about joining USC.

We want this newsletter to open the door of communication to our staff colleagues. What issues are on your mind? What kind of information would you like to see in this newsletter? How can we make Union a better place to work? How can we work together to better serve our students? We are focused on building our community!

Thank you,  
Len and Sonia

## We Want to Hear from You!

If you have any ideas for how we can help improve campus life for Union employees, please reach out. The USC would like to hear your thoughts. Our community is diverse and we know that the more we connect and communicate, the healthier and more active and successful we can be.

Email [USC@union.edu](mailto:USC@union.edu) with your ideas!

## Why Did You Join the Union Staff Council?

### **Peter Gabak**

To be a part of a group that makes incremental and dynamic change happen and represent College Relations, its current parents, students (future alumni), alumni, and friends who make gifts to advance the mission of the College.

### **Marcus Hotaling**

I joined USC in the hopes of giving the staff (everyone outside of faculty) a voice. Given the fact that staff did not have a seat at the table prior to the USC, and still do not have voting rights on matters pertaining to the college, I felt it was important for there to be a group that could speak for staff.

### **Karen Dagostino**

I wanted to bring forth the inequities that exist between the hourly staff and pull up the curtain on the falsehoods that exist on this campus. No one seemed to care about the little people. I wanted to be that person who truly cares.

### **Jill Turner**

Being a member of Staff Council gives me a chance to represent a very large group of individuals that have a tremendous impact on the campus community every single day.

### **Len Schlegel**

I joined USC because I thought there were a lot of areas that Union could do better in terms of making it a great place to work. Many non-faculty employees didn't have a voice and I wanted to be a part of making positive change at Union.

### **Jill Crary-Gracz**

I wanted to have a voice in the changes that are occurring at Union College. There are many employee perspectives and experiences. I wanted to make sure mine and the corner of campus I represent were being heard.

### **Amy Kelley**

I wanted to help unify and mend gaps in policy and relations between diverse areas of the college. And be part of a staff team to build understanding and perspective with administration

### **Mercedes Susi**

For the opportunity to collaborate with and learn from colleagues across campus and provide constructive feedback on policies that contribute to the advancement and long-term success of the College and support our Strategic Plan.

### **Danny Duque**

I joined USC to help be a voice for the staff in our department with issues they feel are not often heard.

### **David Glasser**

To build a more perfect Union and give staff a voice.

### **James Strohecker**

To be part of a group that works closely with Senior Staff to help assist with any changes that can benefit and be impartial with a voice from a staff perspective.

### **Tom Lawson**

I joined so the "little" people would have a voice. I don't think we get fairly represented throughout campus.

### **Sonia Sandoval**

I am here to help amplify the voices of people who propel our college, but often work in the background, unrecognized. My hope is that we can create a better system to improve communication and rebuild trust between staff and administration.