



SAC 2015 Committee Updates

Volunteer Committee (Ad-hoc committee)

History: In 2014, President Christina Paxson tasked the Staff Advisory Council (SAC) to develop a high community impact, volunteer service effort for the University's 3,000 employees. The University's consideration of such a program stems from President Paxson's insight on local community needs and the staff's expressed interest in incorporating a community service component into employee benefits. The University's strategic plan, *Building on Distinction*, states that "Brown University also values its relationship with neighbors and partners in Providence and Rhode Island and is committed to cultivating strong and positive connections for the benefit of the University, the city, and the state".

Mission: The Volunteer Subcommittee of the President's Staff Advisory Council's mission is to propose a team building, university-wide social responsibility program that provides Brown's staff with the benefit of using Paid-Time-Off (PTO) to contribute to [a] high community impact, coordinated service effort(s).

Goals:

1. To provide the benefit of a staff paid volunteer day to Brown University employees;
2. To provide and encourage an opportunity for team building and bonding;
3. To identify community partners in high need that can support a large number of volunteers throughout the year; and
4. To demonstrate Brown University's commitment to the Providence and RI community.

Progress: SAC will participate in a pilot program at the Nature Conservancy on August 26, 2015.

Members: Alexandra Badalucco, Susan Coogan (Co-Chair) Leah Lebel, (Co-Chair), Lisa Noble

Mentoring Initiative Committee (Ad-hoc committee)

History: SAC's Mentoring Initiative Subcommittee was formed following a discussion between SAC members and the University President.

Mission: The mission of the subcommittee is to provide assistance with developing and implementing a peer mentoring program for Brown employees, particularly those new to the university and seeking guidance with onboarding and acclimating to the unique culture at Brown.

Goals: The subcommittee's goals, laid out in early 2015, are:

1. Serve in an advisory capacity and be a sounding board for this initiative;
2. Discuss Center for Learning and Professional Development's (CLPD) mentoring initiative research and program design;
3. Informally gather information from Brown staff to inform the program's design;
4. Communicate and promote the mentoring pilot program;
5. Generate interest for the program;
6. Think of creative ways to get the word out and encourage participation;
7. Help identify advisors to participate in the pilot and beyond;

Progress: To date, CLPD has researched mentoring programs offered by our peer institutions and is developing a program for the University. SAC's Mentoring Initiative Subcommittee has served as an advisor to CLPD, throughout the design process. CLPD has surveyed new employees and conducted a focus group to help with program design. The subcommittee and CLPD have met regularly to develop a pilot mentoring initiative targeted to new employees. Expect to hear more about the pilot program in fall 2015.

Members: Suzanne Alden (co-chair), Kim Departie (co-chair), Allyson Caudell, Tracie Mederos

Events and Participation Committee (Standing committee)

This subcommittee is two-fold. First, SAC hosts various events for staff throughout the year:

- To help promote interdepartmental networking and meeting colleagues who they may not otherwise meet;
- To build up staff morale;
- Hold some in a relaxed setting outside of the workplace.

Events include: Meet and Mingles held after work; Bingo, Trivia, and Pool Tournaments held during lunch; campus walking tours take place during lunch hours. These vents are becoming increasingly popular and have become real opportunities for staff to connect.

Second, this subcommittee invites participation by staff promoting volunteer opportunities where staff volunteers at such organizations as Amos House, Hasbro Children's Hospital, and Providence WaterFire®.

Members: Eli Baalbaki (Chair), Joie Steele, Gary Martins, Donna Frazier, Tracey Cronin (Co-Chair),

Outreach and Communications Committee Update (Standing committee)

The Outreach and Communications Committee is responsible for all SAC communications to the Brown community, chiefly through the SAC website, event posters, Morning Mail and social media. This committee started with all new members on SAC. The posters for all of our events are created by Jessica Garcia and she updates SAC's Facebook page. Morning Mail submissions are submitted by Liz Sandberg. Our Website is being updated by Stephen Nelle and Carolyn Popovic. We recently sent out a survey via Morning Mail to gauge staff's input and for a better understanding of what staff is interested in, as well as what SAC can do to initiate some of those interests. We read your comments and acted on some we could improve upon right away, for example, making sure the SAC website is updated with our most recent minutes and current events. We also want to be able to communicate back to staff on what initiatives we are working on at least twice a year. Thank you for your participation and feedback! If you would like to view the results of the SAC survey, please [click here](#)

Members: Carol Leone (Chair), Stephen Nelle (Co-Chair), Elizabeth Sandberg, Jessica Garcia, Carolyn Popovic