

WHY AM I A COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE?

Jo Ann Addison (term 7/02 – 7/04) –

I am on the Employee Council because I was nominated by my co-workers to serve as their representative for the School of Engineering. I enjoy being a part of the council because the council is an avenue to share issues and concerns with other members and a way to keep other employees informed of important matters at the University. The council is also a great way to meet other employees outside Engineering and to learn about other areas in the University. My goal is to have an open door policy so that employees feel free to contact me regarding particular issues they want the council to consider or to get clarification on policies. I try to follow up on employees requests as quickly as possible. I take my council responsibilities seriously and look forward to helping my fellow employees for another term.

Brian Bader (term 7/02 – 7/04) –

In the summer of 2002 I was asked to be a nominee to represent the UVA Library on the Employee Communications Provost Council. Prior to this offer, I may have heard of the Council, but had no knowledge of its functions and responsibilities. This ignorance I attribute mainly to the information overload, which strikes me, primarily via email, a not-necessarily-evil overload, which consists of all kinds of job, benefits, and organizational-related information about working at UVA and in its library. My platform for running for election was to serve on a representative body as a voice (along with two other library representatives) for the 200-odd library employees at UVA. I am glad I joined because not only do I have the opportunity to represent fellow employees, but I am also afforded an opportunity at every council meeting to hear about the concerns, challenges, *and* rewards which other non-library classified staff experience in employment at UVA.

Annamarie Black (term 03/02 – 07/03) –

I joined the council last year when Roger sent out an email asking for volunteers from classified staff in A&S to join the group (with no strings attached). I was hooked from the beginning. The meetings are very informative and dynamic. Like Linda and Roger, I quickly learned that classified staff does have a voice, that our managers and executives care, and that by working together we *can* make a difference.

In July, I was made co-chair by default, i.e. no one seemed particularly interested in the position. This has been a wonderful experience. Together, the chair and co-chair attend executive committee meetings once or twice a semester in Madison Hall. At this meeting chairs and co-chairs from all of the University Councils meet with Leonard Sandridge, Colette Sheehy and others. I have been impressed by the level of concern and commitment shown by our leaders and fellow council members at these meetings. Since I will be stepping down this year, I strongly encourage current council members to put their name in the hat for this position. You will feel empowered and energized . . . or your

money back :-)

I mentioned that I will be stepping down. This has nothing to do with my fondness for the council. I am in the process of applying to graduate schools, a couple of which have rolling admissions. I'm hopeful that I'll be accepted at one of them and don't want to interrupt my service a month or two into a new term. The bottom line is that I have too many balls in the air. I must say that the last couple of months at council have given me second thoughts about this decision. The movement and communication of council through some challenging issues has been inspiring.

Susan Fogler (term 9/99 – 07/03) –

I am a council member because I truly believe that one must have communication in the workplace in order for the employees to have trust in their employer. By opening the lines of communication, then the employees know that if an issue or a concern arises, the council is a place that they can share this issue with. As a council member, I know that I cannot resolve the problem myself, but I do have the knowledge in pointing this person in the right direction in having this issue resolved. I also see the council being a mechanism for the administration to use in disseminating classified staff information. I am not saying that the administration should not come out and talk with the staff about changes or issues, but if the council serves as the voice of the classified staff, then the council is the place for information to be disseminated.

Mary Gentry (term 03/02 – 07/04) –

I was chosen to serve as the Provost Employee Council Representative for the McIntire School of Commerce. Serving on the Council has been a very rewarding experience. Not only am I able to voice concerns and share comments on behalf of staff at the McIntire School of Commerce, I am grateful for the opportunity to forge relationships with employees from other schools within the UVA community. I am excited about the opportunities the Council provides employees and look forward to continuing my term.

Pat Hartsook (term 7/00 – 7/03??)

Information Forthcoming

Linda Hunt (term 07/02 – 07/04) –

My view is the same as Roger's regarding why I am interested in serving on the Council. The only thing that I would add is that since I have been on the council I now realize that the classified staff do have a voice and avenues they can take in trying to get various problems resolved. Before becoming a member of the Council I never knew this and neither did my fellow employees that work in this building. Communication is the key to a better working environment be it among the University itself or among your fellow employees.

Lauren Killgallon (term 02/03 – 07/04) –

As many of you know, I am the Provost Representative from the Darden School. I am an elected member of Darden’s community staff council, and subsequently, I was chosen out of that group to represent the school on the UVA Provost council.

Prior to becoming a member, I must admit that I didn’t even know this council existed. ...Quite an embarrassing, yet compelling confession. After having been to a few of the meetings, I am happy to say that I now have a more clear perception of exactly what the council is and what we, as members, are supposed to be doing. It seems to me that this council has a great responsibility to serve our “global” community, and I think we should take advantage of this resource to its fullest capacity.

Roger Morris (term ??) –

My interest in serving on the Provost Employee Communications Council is to make an effort in establishing the best working environment possible for classified staff at UVA. It's apparent by the very existence of this council that management is interested in having good communications with the staff at UVA, and for us to not make the effort for a better working environment, would be a mistake of our choosing. I believe that management makes policy decisions in the best interest of better working conditions, but sometimes for various and sundry reasons may overlook certain perceptions, both of their own group and classified staff, and because of that possible oversight, the communications council gives us a voice back to management to rectify such oversights. If we as a council are able to correct one oversight out of ninety-nine efforts, I count that as progress.

Doug Moseley (term 07/02 – 07/04) –

Information Forthcoming

Diane Russell (term 09/02 – 07/03) –

As an employee, I am grateful for a forum, like the Employee Council, where we can express ideas openly and be sure that the concerns of employees are heard and given thoughtful consideration. I enjoy the guest speakers and learn something new each time we meet. I would consider serving on the council again.

Sarah Seat (term 07/02 – 07/04) –

I volunteered to serve on the Employee Council in order to help fellow classified staff express concerns about their working environment and to assist in the dialog between University administration and staff. I also wanted to become more knowledgeable about issues that affect us and to hear how the University administers policies. Since I work in Northern Virginia, I felt that serving on the council would be a means to feel more connected to the University community. By attending the Employee

Council meetings, I have been enlightened about some of the services available to staff and about how UVA encounters, explores, and tries to solve issues regarding classified staff. I really appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Employee Council.

Terry Sheltra (07/01 – 07/03???) –

I had never even heard of the Employee Council when I was asked to sign up. I had no idea what it was, or even what it did. No one in my department was really even remotely interested in joining to serve on the council, and so I thought I would give it a shot to see what it was all about. I'm always interested in hearing about things that concern me as a staff member here at the University, and so I thought it would be a good idea to learn more about working here, as well as having some kind of say about things related to my working at the University.

After my first couple of sessions, I must admit that I was a little bit let down. I was under the impression that the council would actually vote on things that directly affect classified staff employees (similar to the council for the faculty members), rather than just recommend what we think to the Provost, who would still ultimately decide on what was best for us. I still believe that the council should have the power to vote on things that would affect us directly, rather than leave it to someone who isn't a staff member, or would just what we say "into consideration."

Kathy Soule (term 07/02 – 07/04) –

As a classified staff member, I appreciate the opportunity for communication between staff and administration. Serving on the Council allows me to share my colleagues' concerns and issues in a forum where they will be heard and acted upon. I also value the fact that the council meetings are also excellent learning opportunities about various areas and disciplines within UVA.

Glenn Taylor (term 09/01 – 07/03) –

I was originally asked to serve as a representative on the Employee Council. I'm glad I accepted, even though I was originally reluctant to do so. The experience has been very rewarding. By attending council meetings, I've been able to observe first hand and communicate back to my colleagues, issues that are common to us all here at the University. I've also met and communicated with many staff who are genuinely concerned and committed to making UVA a great place to work.

Sue Wharam (term 07/00 – 07/03) –

Information Forthcoming

Kathy Woodson (term 07/02 – 07/04) –

The Employee Council offers an opportunity for us to express ideas openly and provides an avenue for these concerns of employees to be heard and given thoughtful consideration and feedback. I enjoy the guest speakers. My difficulties are that our own staff meetings are Wednesday mornings plus the Fiscal Administrator's Meetings are a conflict for me. I am sorry I have had to miss more than I would want to.

Ann Zook (term –7/02 – 07/04) –

I'm still chewing over this question, but I suppose I could say that I decided to get involved with Employee Council for selfish reasons -- in order to satisfy my own desire to become more active in the University community. I have come to appreciate the role Council plays as a conduit of information between administration and staff. It's been a rewarding experience and I look forward to returning for another term.