

WSPH Staff Council Meeting Minutes

Date: April 2, 2026

Time: 11:30 AM

Format: In-person, virtual

Chair: Nichole Valenzuela

Attendance

Nichole Valenzuela

Cassietta Trawick

Lexi Andry Moore

Emma Powers

Amy Carreras

Hannah Berg

Cristina Miller

Akilesh Kandregula

Kathy Carneiro

Brendan Carter

Tom Augustson

Phillip Williams

Conner Livingston

Farhana Chaudhry

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Nichole Valenzuela.

Old Business

Fireside Chat Debrief

The Council discussed the recent Fireside Chat with the Dean. Feedback was generally positive, with attendees noting the event allowed for open and candid discussion. Topics included reflections on the past year, strategic planning, restructuring, and institutional challenges. The Dean was described as approachable and engaging.

Staff Night Out

The bowling event had approximately 18 attendees and was successful in fostering informal interaction. A board game night is being considered for June based on interest expressed during the event.

Munch & Mingle

The event was well attended despite weather conditions. Members noted an increase in food prices at Wave City Market, which may impact future participation.

WaveWorks Transition

Concerns were raised regarding job title changes, system usability, timekeeping responsibilities, and expense reporting delays. Members emphasized the need for clearer HR communication regarding job classifications and system changes.

New Business

Chair Transition

Nichole Valenzuela announced her transition to the undergraduate office uptown while remaining Staff Council Chair through the end of her term.

Postdoctoral Fellows

Discussion focused on improving communication and inclusion of postdoctoral fellows. The Council considered inviting them to attend future meetings.

Elections

Open seats were identified across multiple departments. Members were encouraged to recruit colleagues and promote participation.

Open Discussion

Members discussed tuition concerns, recruitment challenges, and financial structures affecting part-time students. Downtown safety updates were also reviewed, including increased security presence and improved communication following recent incidents.

HR Announcements

WaveWorks rollout updates were shared. Finance goes live April 13 and budget May 1. Staff were reminded to use floating holidays by June 30.

Additional Announcements

Graduation volunteers are needed. The Green Day of Service may occur after graduation pending confirmation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.