

University Staff Association

2017-2018 Board Nominees

President



Colden Snow

I am excited at the opportunity to become the first President of the newly formed University Staff Association and lead this organization through its first year. If elected, I would work with all constituencies on campus to build bridges in the same spirit of unity which brought SSA and PASA together. Bridges that would crush barriers that have divided us for too long. I would represent all staff members and advocate for them even if their opinions differed from my own. I would want to provide an environment that nurtures professional development for all staff regardless of bi-weekly or monthly paycheck status. I believe my leadership not just as an employee but as a former student makes me uniquely qualified to be President. I appreciate your consideration of me for this position and I would be truly honored to have your vote.

Vice-President/President Elect



Venus Turner

I would like to continue to serve to represent the staff as I have been doing for the last year as vice-president and president of SSA. I hope that I can apply my knowledge to the University Staff Association and make it a positive and fun atmosphere.



Marlene Richards

I am currently the Police Civilian Supervisor at the UHCL Police Department. I really enjoy working with the community of UHCL and serving within the Support Staff Association. It has allowed me to become more involved outside of my normal scope of work. As the current SSA Recording Secretary, I have really enjoyed getting to know others by serving on the Executive Board. I would like to continue serving the UHCL Community by working in the University Staff Association.

Corresponding Secretary



Kelly Molinario

It is with great humility and honor that I accept the nomination of Corresponding Secretary for the University Staff Association. In my current role, I strive to provide exceptional service to our prospective and newly admitted transfer students as they prepare to transition to UHCL, and it would accord me immeasurable pride and satisfaction to also serve the staff of this University, which I love dearly. I have reviewed the responsibilities of this role and am confident my strong writing skills, in addition to my deep regard for the UHCL community, would enable me to serve well in this position. I am delighted at the prospect of conducting correspondence, as well as coordinating nominations and elections, in order to contribute to the success of the University Staff Association. If selected, I look forward to the opportunity of interacting with the organization and representing USA, and the University at large, in a professional manner.

Recording Secretary



Marlene Richards

I am currently the Police Civilian Supervisor at the UHCL Police Department. I really enjoy working with the community of UHCL and serving within the Support Staff Association. It has allowed me to become more involved outside of my normal scope of work. As the current SSA Recording Secretary, I have really enjoyed getting to know others by serving on the Executive Board. I would like to continue serving the UHCL Community by working towards a common goal to better our campus.

Treasurer



Melissa Hernandez

I am interested in running for the Treasurer position because I have a strong belief in promoting communication and volunteerism at the UHCL campus. The treasurer position appeals to me because I am a very detailed and organized individual and have the skills needed for the position of treasurer. I have many years of experience maintaining and balancing accounts and cost centers and I am a very reliable individual. It would be an honor to serve as the 2017/2018 USA treasurer.

Treasurer Alternate



Sarah Brundrett

My name is Sarah Brundrett and I am excited for the opportunity to run for the Alternate Treasurer position. I am interested in this position not only to become more involved within the university, but to also gain knowledge and experience with various financial processes. While a majority of my work is regarding veteran benefits and providing customer service, I also do the accounting procedures for the VSO as well as two other departments. I feel very thankful to have such a unique position at this institution and I believe this will be beneficial to my career here at UHCL.



Corrine Hodges

I have been part of UHCL for two years now, and my first meeting was only on April 20, 2017; a little late, but better late than never! I learned so much about the university from just a one-hour long meeting, so I knew that I definitely needed to keep going to these meetings to learn even more. I am willing to serve on the 2017-2018 USA Executive Board because I want to help transition not only this organization as it goes through a very big change, but also as the university goes through its own big changes. What better way to learn even more than to just jump in, head first, and serve on the Executive Board? ☺

Archivist



Tyler Hall

The University Staff Association plays a key role in providing the opportunity for university employees to connect, engage in dialogue about campus initiatives and concerns, and build a sense of community and support for UHCL staff. Serving as the University Staff Association's Archivist it will be my priority to organize all relevant material and collect photographs and individual testimonials from USA members and events. This is an exciting time for UHCL, with USA beginning a new chapter of University Staff collaboration and cooperation it is a fantastic opportunity for the USA Archivist to find unique and meaningful ways to capture and share the impactful work the organization and its' members accomplish. Through my skills in collecting, organizing and sharing information and my passion for sharing stories and accomplishments in a unique way I believe that I would bring new ideas, positivity, creativity, and a fresh perspective to the Archivist position and the University Staff Association.

Facilities & Support Services Committee Alternate



Debra Ross

My interest and dedication to public service in my community makes me interested in working on UHCL activities with the same responsiveness and enthusiasm. The expanding growth of UHCL facilities makes this a perfect time to learn more about the Facilities and Support organization and put my hands, with others, to best serve our UHCL community. I am active with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, a public service sorority in Fort Bend county, a Booster Club member in Pearland ISD Special Olympics, and sing in the Mission Chorus at my church. In PASA, I worked on the Welcome and Outreach Committee.



Kim Edwards

I have been a SSA representative for Shared Governance for many years. I would like to continue serving on the FSSC committee to follow up with items that have been presented, and to see them through completion. This is an exciting time. With the expansion of the campus and a new administration, I would like to continue to be a voice for my fellow staff members. I listen when you speak, and I take that to the meetings. Together, we all make a difference.

Planning & Budgeting Committee Alternate



Heather German

I received a scholarship to use towards my degree. As gesture of gratitude, I want to give back to the University and the staff association by volunteering my time.



Susan Green

I'm Susan Green, Sr. Business Coordinator for Administration and Finance. I work in the Budget Office and welcome the opportunity to serve as PBC Alternate. This position will provide a chance to increase my knowledge of the university's planning and budget processes. I look forward to developing new friendships with USA members, to share what I learn, and represent the organization on points presented in PBC. It would be my pleasure to serve USA during these exciting and challenging times.



Leigh Ann Shelfer

In my current position in the Office of University Advancement, my work includes drafting grant proposals to fund university priorities. Past service at UHCL includes election as Recording Secretary for the HSH Secretaries' Committee and volunteering on the Planning and Decorating Committee for the SSA Holiday Luncheon. I have received Service Awards from the HSH Secretaries' Committee and the UHCL History Club. I earned an M.A. in History from UHCL in 2009. I believe my familiarity with the university through 10 years of service and my current insight into university fundraising priorities and procedures from my work in University Advancement provide relevant experience that would be useful to the PBC.

University Life Committee Representative



Annette Mendoza

As current Vice-President of the Support Staff Association (SSA), I have learned to appreciate the role that the University Life Committee plays in our daily lives at the university. ULC addresses topics ranging from on campus safety to quality of life issues and much more. The reason I accepted the nomination is that I know my ideas can help establish great programs and positive changes at UHCL. My experiences at other institutions of higher education as well as my roles at UHCL as an SSA representative, employee and student provide me with a unique insight which can help effect change. My desire to preserve the exceptional environment at UHCL for its employees and students is what makes me a sincere and dedicated representative.



Katie Reno

I have always considered myself an active community member no matter where I'm living or working. I'm new to UHCL and would like to get more involved. I would also like to learn more about the university and current events that affect staff and students. I have served on many committees in my previous role and I enjoy collaborating.



Sharnae Sanderson-Archer

I am interested in being a ULC Representative because I have a passion for keeping our campus safe. As an EHS Technician, one of my main responsibilities is to recommend & implement safety and health practices. I work closely with several departments (FMC, PD, CADD, etc.) including faculty and students in making sure they are informed on possible risk factors and are equipped with proper supplies to prevent and protect them from injury or illness. If nominated for this position, I will have a better opportunity to be informed and to assist on all environmental, health and safety related matters. I have become acclimated to this position for a year now, and I am looking forward to revamping our university's safety culture.

University Life Committee Alternate



Patrick Cardenas

I have a genuine interest in UHCL's success and believe the personnel and student population are key factors to that success. I understand the importance of sustaining the quality of UHCL's campus life as well as policy development and delivery, which will affect all members of the university community. For the past three years, I have maintained an active presence in P.A.S.A. representing that constituency on several committees. Now that we are moving toward a unified staff constituency, I would love to be given the opportunity to share my experiences in community building, shared governance, and advocacy with the new U.S.A. executive board as the University Life Committee Alternate. Thank you in advance for your consideration, GO HAWKS!

Welcome and Outreach Committee Chair



Marcial Contreras

I would like the opportunity to serve you as the next Welcome and Outreach Chair because committing to this role, would allow for me to contribute by serving the USA Executive Board and the UHCL community. Due to my twenty years of experience as a touring musician, I've had the opportunity to interact with a diverse population. For the last year I have been a part of the UHCL family, therefore, I believe that the Welcome and Outreach Chair position aligns with my professional role here at UHCL because my duties strongly focuses in the outreach of staff and faculty. Thank you for taking the time on reading my message. Good luck to everyone!



Julie Brenengen

I am interested in serving as Welcome and Outreach Chair for the University Staff Association (USA) because after thoroughly enjoying my time as Secretary for the Professional and Administrative Staff Association (PASA) for the past year, I realized how much I thrive while playing a role within our staff association. However, as Secretary a lot of my contributions were done behind a computer screen, so I was not as active and present within the university as I would have liked to be. It is time for me to pass my torch as Secretary, but would feel honored to serve USA as Welcome and Outreach Chair to aid in greeting new employees to the university and informing them about our staff association.

Scholarship Committee Chair



Vanessa Cubides

If elected Scholarship Committee Chair, my primary focus will be to provide all USA members access to educational advancement through scholarships. I am confident that this can be achieved by establishing a precedent for a fair and impartial process, as well as by simplifying access to UHCL sponsored scholarships. Once elected, I will also work to establish a professional development scholarship program in addition to maintaining our current academic scholarships. In filling this position, I understand that I will be responsible for coordinating the application process and will be expected to serve on the endowment scholarship committees. My experience as current chairperson of the Scholarship Rewrite Committee and past president of the Support Staff Association (SSA) have well prepared me for the duties of the Scholarship Committee Chair.



Jay Hernandez

It is with humble honor that I accept the nomination as the Scholarship Committee Chair. My nomination has filled me with a strong sense of pride and I would like to show my appreciation by serving the University that has served me. I fully understand the responsibilities of this position and look forward to interacting with the campus community through the University Staff Association in this role. If elected, I would be eager to develop new scholarship initiatives as well as lead a committee that would establish a fair and impartial process for all scholarship applicants. Lastly, I would work diligently to ensure that all staff members were properly communicated about all scholarship opportunities. Thank you in advance for your consideration and I would be honored to serve UHCL!

Fundraising Committee Chair



LeeAnn Wheelbarger

I have been involved with Fundraising efforts for SSA for many years. Harvest Fair has been the biggest fundraising event for our organization for the 17 years I've worked at UHCL. If elected, it would be an honor to continue to serve USA in its fundraising efforts.

Professional Development Committee Chair



Meryl Bazaman

I want to make life a little easier for USA members by sharing access to information that will hopefully allow them to expand upon their existing skill sets.



Corey Benson

I am excited about the potential to use the skills I have gained through my involvement with state and national professional associations to contribute to many opportunities for professional development to USA and the UHCL community. I am actively involved in NASPA Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education and currently serve as Public Policy Core Member for the Gender and Sexuality Knowledge Community, a committee member for the 2018 NASPA Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Conference, and as a member of the Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice Division. I have also been actively involved in the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators (TACUSPA), and will serve on the TACUSPA Board of Directors as Director of Technology until October 2017. Through the University Staff Association, the UHCL community has many opportunities for professional development through trainings, workshops, webinars, and conversations, and I look forward to being part of it.