



TULANE UNIVERSITY  
Staff Advisory Council

## 2026-27 Downtown SAC Candidates

**Bethany Branson:** I am interested in serving on the Staff Advisory Council because I care deeply about helping create a workplace where staff feel heard, supported, and empowered to do their best work. I would value the opportunity to represent staff voices, contribute ideas that strengthen our workplace culture, and help ensure that decisions are informed by the real needs and experiences of those doing the work every day.

**Genevieve Burguières:** I am interested in serving on the Staff Advisory Council to help amplify staff voices, strengthen communication across departments, and contribute to initiatives that enhance the overall staff experience at Tulane. I value collaboration and would be excited to support efforts that promote professional growth and community-building across the university.

**Ashley Ernst:** It would be an honor and privilege to serve the Tulane community as a member of the Staff Advisory Council. As both a Tulane alumna (Class of 2007) and employee since 2017, I have had the privilege of connecting and working with countless individuals, departments, and leadership teams across the University's various campuses. The connections I continue to make prove to be invaluable during my journey as a member of the Tulane workforce. I would embrace the opportunity to serve in this role and work with Tulane's leadership to promote initiatives that would enhance and support a healthy work-life balance for our staff. Through daily interactions with peers and mentors over the years, I have come to realize this is a concept many Tulane employees struggle with. Though this is not a new issue in the workforce, it has become increasingly more challenging for individuals to achieve in more recent years. While the evolution of technology has allowed us to more easily stay connected, it has simultaneously presented the challenge for many staff members to truly "disconnect" during non-work hours and/or personal time off. Though there are circumstances where this is occasionally necessary, this should otherwise not be the norm and highly discouraged. Many staff members feel reluctant to fully disconnect for a variety of reasons. Some are fearful of not wanting to fall behind in work and choose to work through lunch breaks and/or after work hours to help "stay afloat." Others struggle with feeling they might be viewed as lazy and not interested in being a

contributing team member while many individuals simply struggle to “turn work off” and don’t even realize they do this, though often evident to their peers through interactions. An employee's inability to feel comfortable disconnecting from work has many profound detrimental effects on the employee, their families, and work teams who depend on them daily. Such effects include but are not limited to burn-out, anxiety, depression, a decline in physical and mental health, and feelings of one’s inability to meet personal, family, and work needs. As a full-time Tulane employee, a wife, and a mother of three children (two who are special needs), I know this struggle all too well - even with a supportive team behind me. Without a healthy work-life balance, our staff cannot be expected to function as the best version of themselves and perform at the high level they are capable of. I would like the opportunity to formally contribute to open discussions on this topic (as well as others) and share many possible solutions and ideas I feel are reasonable, forward thinking, attainable, sustainable, and most importantly, beneficial for both the University and its staff. Tulane’s beating heart is its employees. As such, we need to continue to support them, promote more open dialogue on this topic, and advocate for changes that promote a healthy work-life balance for our staff.

**Lane Luneau:** Being a member of the Staff Advisory Council for the Downtown Campus will provide an opportunity to collaborate with fellow staff across Tulane University and ensure staff voices are heard. Open communication and collaboration with leadership will strengthen engagement and relationships across Tulane University, leading to a positive and inclusive campus culture.

**Kalil Mosquera:** I am excited to apply for the Staff Advisory Council at Tulane University because I am passionate about representing and uplifting the voices of newer and younger staff members. As someone who understands the transition from student to professional within the Tulane community, I bring a unique perspective on the needs and challenges of this group. Many early-career staff members seek mentorship, career development, and a stronger sense of belonging, and I want to help ensure those needs are heard and addressed. I am committed to advocating for policies and initiatives that support growth, equity, and engagement across all staff levels. By serving on the Council, I hope to bridge communication between leadership and emerging professionals. I believe that investing in younger staff strengthens the long-term success and culture of the university. I also want to help create more opportunities for professional advancement and cross-department collaboration. My goal is to contribute thoughtful ideas that reflect both innovation and inclusivity. I am eager to listen, learn, and represent my peers with integrity and purpose. Serving on the Staff Advisory Council would be an opportunity to champion the next generation and help shape a stronger future for Tulane.

**Larry Overton:** I am interested in serving on the Staff Advisory Council because I value the opportunity to contribute to a stronger, more connected workplace. In my role, I regularly work across teams and leadership levels, which has given me a broad perspective on staff experiences, communication gaps, and opportunities to improve engagement. I am committed to ensuring that staff voices are heard, represented, and translated into meaningful action. I bring a strategic mindset, a collaborative approach, and a genuine investment in building a positive and productive environment for all employees. Serving on the Council would allow me to further that impact by helping shape initiatives that support staff success and strengthen our institutional culture.

**Wendy Stark:** I am excited to seek your vote to continue serving as a representative of the SOM on the Staff Advisory Council. This past year, I actively served in a proxy role, regularly attending meetings and engaging in thoughtful dialogue that helped influence Tulane's current hybrid work approach. Being part of the Tulane community matters deeply to me. I am engaged and enjoy connecting with colleagues through volunteer service and campus events. I would be honored to continue listening to, supporting, and representing staff while working collaboratively with leadership to strengthen our Tulane community.

**Elizabeth Tierney:** I'm interested in serving a second term as a downtown representative on the Staff Advisory Council because I've truly valued the opportunity to connect with colleagues across the university and help elevate staff perspectives. Over the past two years, I've built strong relationships and developed a deeper understanding of how to advocate for our staff community. I'd welcome the opportunity to continue building on that experience!

**Ashley Toney:** I am interested in serving on the Staff Advisory Council because I care deeply about helping create a workplace where staff feel heard, supported, and empowered to do their best work. I would value the opportunity to represent staff voices, contribute ideas that strengthen our workplace culture, and help ensure that decisions are informed by the real needs and experiences of those doing the work every day.