

Year End Review

STAFF COUNCIL
♦
Cal State Channel Islands



By Staff, For Staff - A Year in Review

CI Staff Council is a campus organization run *by staff for staff*. We advocate on behalf of staff on issues relating to campus culture and morale, work to improve campus communication, and participate in shared campus decision-making on topics outside of collective bargaining.

We plan and sponsor events, provide networking and leadership opportunities, facilitate staff representatives on campus committees, celebrate staff awards and recognitions, and organize community service projects, all for or on behalf of staff at Cal State Channel Islands.

Our efforts to improve the staff experience at CI and build a strong foundation for the work we do to support students is always growing. This report - the first of its kind at CI, - includes an overview of the activities we've engaged in during the 2024-2025 Academic Year, including fundraisers, community engagement, and shared governance.

We are excited to showcase the hard work of our officers and division representatives in supporting and advocating for their peers at Cal State Channel Islands and we look forward to continuing these efforts in the years to come.

In this report you can expect:

A Message from the Chair

Financial Report

Community Service & Outreach

Representation

Shared Governance

2025 Ventura Corporate Games

Goals



2 | A Message from the Chair

As Staff Council Chair, I am thrilled to share our new Year End Review report with all of you. This report represents our collective efforts to increase transparency and engagement on behalf of all staff at CI. It can be easy to lose track of how many individual accomplishments we complete over a year - how many events we've held, how many staff we've connected with, where our funds are going - but when we take the time to catalog our work and share it, it stands out that much more.

AY 2024-2025 represents the first full year I have served as your chair. I am tremendously grateful for all the efforts of my fellow officers, our division representatives, and the staff volunteers and campus committee reps who advocate at all levels and in all spaces on behalf of staff. This year has been a mix of difficulties and achievements. We launched the Staff Council Ferry listserv, joined the President's first Shared Governance Council, increased our number of division representatives, and worked with Academic Senate to expand the number of staff reps on key Senate subcommittees.

But there has also been tragedy and hardship. We have lost many colleagues to layoffs, early exit, retirement, and external opportunities as our decreased enrollment numbers have led directly to a reduced operational budget. The impact of recent federal activity on both our industry and our regional community also cannot be understated. On the very eve of the new academic year, we also mourned the unexpected loss of a faculty colleague, Dr. Jesse Elliott.

In the face of loss and uncertainty, Staff Council remains dedicated to serving staff at CI and will continue to advance the causes of transparency, inclusion, and community on behalf of staff - those whose efforts lay the foundation on which CSU Channel Islands will rebound and flourish. I am proud to serve as your chair and count myself among the many brilliant, innovative, steadfast, and exceptional staff at CI.

Sincerely,
Rebecca



Rebecca Slocum
Staff Council Chair 2024-2026



3 | Year End Financial Report

CI Staff Council is fully self-funded, meaning any funds we have available to spend on morale events, contest prizes, awards and recognitions, or supplies is fundraised throughout the year.

July 1, 2024 *Beginning Balance: **\$2840.28**
June 30, 2025, *Ending Balance: **\$2527.70**

*Due to processing, some expenses from AY 23-24 carried over into AY 24-25; some expenses are expected to carry over into AY 25-26.



Fundraisers

Staff Council raised a total of **\$958.50** across five fundraisers during the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

- **\$140.00** from Painting With A Twist
- **\$99.00** from Krispy Kreme
- **\$279.50** from See's Candy
- **\$240.00** from Give & Garden
- **\$200.00** from American Pie Co

By unanimous vote, Staff Council opted to donate all proceeds from the See's Candy fundraiser to the Ventura County Community Foundation fund to support those in our community impacted by the Mountain Fire.



Expenses

Staff Council spent a total of **\$807.58** during the 2024-2025 Academic Year.

- **\$366.83** for meeting and event refreshments
- **\$120.00** for recognition awards
- **\$300.00** for Canva Pro annual subscription
- **\$20.75** for Foundation account related fees



4 | Representation

CI Staff Council is made up of elected or appointed representatives from all five campus divisions, plus staff volunteers and ex-officio members. For 2024-2025:

- Academic Affairs - **3**
- Business & Financial Affairs - **3**
- Student Affairs - **3**
- Office of the President - **2**
- University Advancement - **2**

Ex-Officio Members of Staff Council during 2024-2025:

- Annie Block-Weiss, *Former Chair*
- Christina Smith, *Academic Senate Chair*
- Andrew Fox, *ASI Student Government President*
- Richard Yao, *University President*

2024-2025 Staff Council Officers & Representatives



Rebecca Slocum
Chair



Sean Kramer
Vice Chair



Rachel Danielson
Secretary



Colleen Haws
Treasurer

Courtney Gross
DAA Representative
Study Abroad
Coordinator

Max Seligman
DAA Representative
Instructional
Support Technician

Riley Crain
DAA Representative
Academic Program
Assessment Analyst

Melissa Bergem
DBFA Representative
Project Manager

Paula Robertson
DBFA Representative
VPBFA Operations
Administrator

Carolina Martinez
DSA Representative
Coordinator of
Basic Needs

Yasmine Wyatt
DSA Representative
Coordinator of
Residential Education

Alex Calderon
DUA Representative
Advancement
Administrative Specialist

Hayley Van Arsdell Morrison
DUA Representative
Coordinator of
Employer Engagement
& Outreach



5 | Governance

We also coordinate staff representation on campus committees, task forces, and initiatives, whether recurring or ad hoc, and maintain staff representative seats on our shared governance partner organizations, including **Academic Senate** and the **Non Tenure Track Faculty Council**.

- Total Staff on Campus Committees: **13**
- Total Staff Represented in Partner Organizations: **5**

Staff Council facilitated the appointment of staff representatives on the following campus committees:

- Employee Campus Climate Survey Committee
- President's Advisory Council on Inclusive Excellence
- President's Planning & Policy Committee
- Strategic Resources & Planning Committee
- Student Success, Inclusive Excellence, & Continuous Improvement Task Force*
- University Art Review Committee
- 2025 Provost Search Committee*

*one-time or ad-hoc committees

Staff Council Actions

During the 2024-2025 Academic Year, CI Staff Council added procedures for drafting policies and resolutions to address topics of concern for staff at CI.

Actions taken during this year include:

- Drafted a policy to formally restore the Employee Years of Service (also called Service Awards) recognition
- Drafted **five** resolutions addressing topics of concern both within Staff Council and in the broader campus community, including:
 - A resolution on the status of Staff Council volunteers and committee representatives
 - A resolution affirming the Cozen O'Connor Report
 - A resolution supporting the creation of a Dean's List
 - a resolution addressing ongoing poor treatment of staff by faculty and academic administrators

Staff Council Organization

Internally, this year marked two major changes in the internal organization of the CI Staff Council.

First, the subcommittees were reorganized - our internal subcommittees now consist of:

- Communication & Brand Management
- Governance
- Outreach & Development

This change enables the communication team to manage all publications and social media, and the events team to have more agency to organize fundraisers.

Second, our representative numbers, previously static, are now proportional to the number of employees per division, effective beginning with the elections for the 2025-2028 terms of service.

6 | Community Service & Outreach



School Supply Drive

We partnered with Basic Needs to provide school supplies to the Dolphin Guardian Scholars at the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester.

- **845** supplies donated by **8** donors
- **51** students benefitted



Holiday Toy Drive

In partnership with the 10th Annual 'Happy Birthday Mason' Toy Drive, we collected dozens of toys during the 2024 holiday season.

Donations benefitted James Store House, Spark of Love, and the American Red Cross.



Community Partnerships

One of the goals set by Staff Council for the 2024-2025 Academic Year was to establish partnerships with both other campus organizations and external community groups. The partnership with Basic Needs for the School Supply drive kicked off an ongoing partnership with the Dolphin Pantry and Dolphin Guardian Scholars program, the first of many to come.



In the Loop

10 issues of the *In The Loop* newsletter were published during the 2024-2025 Academic Year, including **nine** unique Staff Spotlights.

The *In The Loop* newsletter launched in January 2019 and Staff Council has published a total of **59** issues to date.



Staff Council Ferry

The Staff Council Ferry, a weekly listserv digest, launched in August 2024.

To date, Staff Council has published **44** issues of the Ferry, reaching **119** total subscribers.

7 | 2025 Ventura Corporate Games



Summary

- Staff Council organized CI's **10th** year of participation in the Ventura Corporate Games and **69** staff, faculty, and administrators represented Team Channel Islands
- CI fielded **31** total teams for bocce, table tennis, lazertag, golf, cornhole, mini-golf, indoor volleyball, darts, bowling, ax throwing, soccer, pickleball, Texas hold 'em, table games, and the sand sculpture contest
- CI won **two** silver medals, **one** gold medal, and the JD Probasco Team Unity Award for best attitude and team spirit during the 2025 Games



Sand Sculpture Contest

The CI Sand Sculpture Team won **Silver** for the 2nd year in a row!

Pictured (left to right): Paula Robertson, Rachel Danielson, Amber-Marie Madrid, Melissa Bergem, Tanya Gonzalez, and Alex Calderon



In-Person & Virtual 5k

Anthony Plascencia, Photography & Videographer in Communication & Public Relations, won **Silver** in his bracket for the Virtual 5k!

Pictured: Anthony Plascencia



T-Shirt Design

The 2025 Ventura Corporate Games t-shirt design for Team Channel Islands was developed by Jessica Chiang, Graphic Designer in Communication & Public Relations.



Trivia

Team Channel Islands won **Gold** in Trivia! 2025 marks the first year Trivia has been featured as a competitive event in the Ventura Corporate Games.

Pictured (left to right): Robert Tabor, Chris Murphy, Carlos Miranda, Kara Waycasy, Rachel Danielson, and Rebecca Slocum



8 | Goals & Accomplishments

At the beginning of the 2024-2025 Academic Year, CI Staff Council established five goals:

- Increase awareness of Staff Council and increase campus engagement with Staff Council
- Develop pathways to support professional development for staff
- Establish signature annual events, fundraisers, and staff recognitions or awards
- Build partnerships with campus areas for sponsorships and signature fundraisers or donation drives
- Establish an explicit mission and/or vision statement for Staff Council and develop a style guide for social media publications

An additional two goals were identified by the Staff Council Executive Board

- Revive the Employee Years of Service recognition program
- Document key Staff Council history milestones ahead of the 10 Year Anniversary

Where did we land on these goals?

- With the launching of the Staff Council Ferry, our messaging now reaches faculty and administrator colleagues;
- Professional development continues to be a priority and our work in this arena will continue into the new AY
- Several of our fundraisers are now consistently organized annually, including Painting with a Twist, See's Candy, and Give & Garden, and our School Supply Drive is gearing up for its 2nd annual offering, demonstrating a strong partnership with the Basic Needs program
- Our Mission & Vision statement can now be found on [our website](#) and our internal style guide is nearing completion

Additionally, the Executive Board was able to make great strides regarding the Service Awards and Staff Council History Project.

The Years of Service Recognition resumption event coincided with the 2024 Holiday Bazaar, where **627** employees were recognized for a milestone reached between 2019 and 2024. The Office of the President will coordinate the annual recognition going forward, to coincide with year-end events.

The Staff Council History Project will continue into 2025-2026, and to support such future efforts, we have established annual metrics tracking, summaries, and an official Year End Review report to be organized by the Executive Board in collaboration with the Communication & Brand Management Subcommittee.





9 | Summary

Thanks for another great year!

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www.csuci.edu/staff/council/	Instagram & Facebook: @ci.staffcouncil
