

SEATTLEU

STAFF COUNCIL

2022 ELECTION

VOTERS'

PAMPHLET

VOTE May 20 thru May 31, 2022

Voting closes at 4:30pm on Tuesday, May 31

Click [here](#) to access the SUSC Election and Voting webpage.

ACADEMIC FOCUS: vote for 1 exempt and 2 non-exempt | 3 total

Elaine Marcinek

Academic Focus

Exempt



I am honored to be nominated for this position. I have worked at Seattle University for almost 5 years with a passion for upholding and promoting our mission and vision. Prior to coming to Seattle University my career was in proprietary education, with opportunities to work in financial aid, operations, and as a Campus Director. I obtained my bachelor's degree in business from UW-Bothell, and I hold an MBA from City University. In my current role as Co-PI and Director of the Center for Change in Transition Services, a research-funded project located in the College of Education, I work with an amazing team, communicate regularly with our partners and also lead the College of Education Staff Council. I'm excited at the prospect of serving as a representative of our diverse staff community. As a Staff Council member, I could offer a fresh voice and perspective; a voice that advocates for the needs of our community, having a positive impact on our environment and culture.

Matt Etter

Academic Focus

Exempt



We live in a city where a wide array of employment opportunities (often higher paying) exist for staff. I believe Seattle University staff are motivated to work here by a wholehearted belief in the institution's mission. It is crucial for us to retain and attract mission-focused staff and I would be honored to contribute to this pursuit on the Staff Council. A fulfilled staff make for a stronger and more vibrant university, and I want to serve on the Staff Council because I believe it is imperative for staff to feel supported, heard, and advocated for. Serving as the President of QLaw (WA's LGBTQ+ Bar Association) and as chair of the law school's staff council has equipped me with a wide range of skills to effectively collaborate, gain consensus, and serve on a diverse team of individuals. As a school of law alumni and staff member for the past 6 years, I look forward to the opportunity to develop more relationships across the university while advocating for my fellow colleagues.

Kim Thompson

Academic Focus

Exempt



Higher education is at a unique place in its history and if you are reading these bios, you are someone who cares about Seattle University's place in that history, where the university is going, and how we will get there. I share that concern and feel a deep sense of responsibility to be part of a Seattle University that actualizes the values and ethos we promote. Staff can play a crucial role in realizing those values.

The pandemic, racial violence, and cultural shifts of the last two years have heightened a divide between constituencies on our campus. This division is beyond the normal creative tension we acknowledge and embrace as a Jesuit institution. It keeps us from harnessing the strength and fluidity needed to become the university our strategic directions imagine. We need to find a way forward that honors all the cultures - staff, faculty, student, and administrative, as our interdependence is a strength that should be cultivated.

I have been in higher education for over 25 years and am a graduate of Seattle University. I am currently the Senior Director of Disability Services. Before coming to SU in 2017, I was a tenured faculty member and a Dean of Students at a community college. I am familiar with complex systems, have dedicated my life to the liberation that education can offer, and have a deep commitment to our Ignatian values. It would be an honor to serve you as a member of the staff council. Thank you.

Rachel Olson
Academic Focus
Non-Exempt



Rachel is the Program Coordinator in the Center for Faculty Development (CFD), where she has worked since November 2018. This position affords a unique viewpoint into both staff and faculty issues, and has sparked a deep interest in advocating for and promoting professional development opportunities for staff, on par with the work being done for faculty in the CFD.

Another facet of Rachel's perspective as an SU community member comes from her current experience as a graduate student in the Albers Professional MBA program, which she began in Fall 2020. Her focus in the program is on Leadership Formation and Organizational Development, which has illustrated the importance of shared governance when it comes to responsible change management, employee retention, and building trust throughout an organization.

Rachel hopes to use her insight into staff, faculty, and student concerns at SU to bring a unique and valuable perspective to Staff Council. She will advocate for collaboration, communication, and innovative thinking to help make SU a better place for all to thrive.

Valerie Fisher
Academic Focus
Non-Exempt



I am interested in being on Staff Council because I see every day how much effort and love the staff at Seattle U pour into their work, and I want to help strengthen our collective voices. As a student here at Seattle U, I benefitted from the diligent and selfless work of staff. Now as a staff member myself, I have attempted to pour that same love and dedication to student success into my own work in Disability Services for the last nearly 4 years. I understand the challenges though that come from continuing to pour from an empty cup, and with all the challenges of the pandemic and the increasingly unstable world we live in, the cup has never felt more depleted. If I were elected as a member of Staff Council, I would help to raise issues, strengthen the voices of those on the margins, and find creative solutions to help fill in the gaps between where we are and who we say we are. I am ready and willing to put in the work to make Seattle U a place that staff feel heard and valued.

STRUCTURAL FOCUS: Vote for 1 union, 1 exempt & 1 non-exempt | 3 Total

Mike Mullen

Structural Focus

Union



As a student and a 25 year employee at Seattle University I feel very qualified to assume the role of working on and with the Staff Council in an effort to fully represent the wants and needs of SU Staff. In my capacity as the Lead Journeymen Plumber and “Mayor of SU” I have been very involved with all things SU since I started here in 1984. I would be honored to share my experience ensuring that our wonderful staff are treated fairly. I have come to know every inch of this campus and the surrounding neighborhood where I have lived since I was 18 and do my best to help everyone I can succeed in whatever endeavor they are engaged in. I plan to bring that spirit to the Staff Council and look forward to making the Staff Council a highly functional and effective tool for all of us.

Becky Rowe

Structural Focus

Exempt



I would be honored to serve on the Staff Council. I have worked as a staff colleague with Seattle University for almost five years and have worked in two distinct departments - Conference and Event Services as their Financial Coordinator and now Human Resources as their Senior HR Specialist for Hiring and the New Employee Experience. I am also a proud alum having recently graduated from the Alber's MBA program. All of these experiences have deepened my commitment to the SU mission. I am passionate about the staff experience and have been able to live out that passion more in an HR capacity directly impacting our new employee's experience. I would really enjoy bringing both perspectives to the council to advocate on behalf of staff, drive continuous improvements, and ensure that voices are heard.

Eli Christopher Voigt

Structural Focus

Exempt



I am the Assistant Director of Digital Marketing at Seattle University and have been with the university for 14 years in various roles. I want to run for Staff Council because I am extremely interested in making a positive impact at the university in regards to retention, well-being, and professional formation of staff. Connecting with my co-workers and creating a better work environment are important to me. I will serve the Staff Council by helping drive beneficial changes in the lives of the Seattle U community.

I currently serve on the staff professional formation committee and recently finished the Executive Leadership Program at Seattle University.

Laura Reeve

Structural Focus

Exempt



I am honored to run for Seattle University Staff Council. I have been at the university for over 5 years and may have crossed paths with you working in CES or most recently ITS. The SU mission of developing the whole person speaks volumes to me, not just for our students but especially our faculty and staff. Groups like Women in Mission continuously nurture and inspire me to be my honest and best self in all that I do. I volunteer for the ITS Inclusive Excellence group and have led numerous discussions around mental health, social justice, ableism and accessibility. I also believe that professional development is key for staff retention and enrichment. If elected, I would look to amplify the voices that are under-represented, and help facilitate the difficult conversations required to ensure staff are treated with the equity, dignity and respect that we deserve.

Victor Chimenti

Structural Focus

Exempt



It is with pleasure that I announce my candidacy for SeattleU Staff Council. As a double alum I've seen the growth of our organization through three presidencies. Much like the rest of the world, we are currently struggling with growth and bandwidth issues. For us, these issues threaten our ability to meet our mission goals. In my time with SU, I've worked as a student employee for 5 different departments, served for a year on the Graduate Student Council, delivered my Undergraduate Capstone Project results to a national audience, and currently serve as the University Web Developer. This cumulative experience has given me a unique lens with which to understand our pain points. As a proven problem solver I believe that I can help lead us to a consensus and deliver a more sustainable future for our staff, faculty, alumni, donors, and students. Thank you, Victor Chimenti

Preston Merkel

Structural Focus

Exempt



I'm excited to have the opportunity to serve on the Seattle University Staff Council. A little bit about me: I have worked for SU for two and a half years now in the Information Technology Services department. I began working at the Service Desk and recently started as a Server Engineer. I have always valued our leaderships commitment to encourage personal and professional growth. Without that commitment I wouldn't have been able to learn so much and get to where I am today. In my free time I enjoy gardening, cooking, visiting friends and family, and shopping at Costco. I'm interested in the opportunity to represent our staff members because I believe that even with a strong foundation, we can always strive further to continue to foster a culture of positivity and opportunity for our staff, faculty and student community.

Lindsey Jeske

Structural Focus
Non-Exempt



I am excited about the possibility of serving on Seattle University Staff Council. I greatly appreciate SUSC's commitment to being a representative voice for SU staff and engaging with the campus community. I am appreciative of the nomination and consideration, and would be thrilled to join this important work!

STUDENT FOCUS: Vote for 1 exempt & 1 non-exempt | 2 Total

Ashlee Day
Student Focus
Exempt



I have been working at Seattle University since 2019 and in that time I have really appreciated the positive interactions and collaborations I have had with other staff members. As an Assistant Director in the Office of Multicultural Affairs, much of my work focuses on how to create a more inclusive environment for students at Seattle U. Professionally I have expertise in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in organizations and would love the opportunity to support efforts to recruit and retain BIPOC staff at Seattle University in particular.

Joyce Allen
Student Focus
Exempt



I have worked as both an exempt and non-exempt staff for a total of almost 15 years over three different tenures in the Office of Evening Programs and Continuing Education and mostly in the Office of the Registrar. I come from a family of educators and received my MAEd at Seattle University in 2009. The educational mission is in my blood and Seattle University is in my soul. I seek to add my unique perspective, that comes from my own intersectionality as a woman and a lesbian and a cultural Catholic, to staff council and the role this work plays in a strong shared governance commitment.

Niall Quinn

Student Focus

Non-Exempt



By serving as a member of the Staff Council, I will help bring voice for those who may not have a platform to be heard. I will represent front-line staff members who spend most of their day interacting with, and serving the student body. Enrollment Services, and the SU community as a whole can really benefit from representation from the staff that work on the front lines. Enrollment Services is one of the larger divisions on campus and as such have an immense and diverse amount of student interaction; students and families will often interact with our division as their first impression of Seattle U. Providing a voice for those Staff members will benefit the SU experience for the staff and the students of the university. I would like to add to the Staff Council and support initiatives for personal and professional development for all staff, as well as providing more opportunities for staff to engage with other units of campus in hopes of returning a sense of community to SU Staff.

Zana Crites

Student Focus

Non-Exempt



To my colleagues,
My name is Zana Crites. During my time at SU, I've witnessed the rollercoaster we have all been riding. Our work hasn't been easy, and at times, it felt impossible. But I don't think it should feel like that. I have spent my time at SU listening, assessing situations, and understanding individuals to be an advocate for my peers. I don't shy around hard questions and will engage in challenging conversations to ensure voices are being heard. I value transparency, varying perspectives, and uplifting collectively and have emanated that through my work. I am a strong communicator who leads with an understanding that the individual matters and those impacted should have a seat at the table. I also believe in celebrating others' accomplishments in a way that is true to them. I would be honored to have your vote and to represent your perspective, lived experience, and knowledge.

HOW TO VOTE:

- All staff members are eligible to vote.
- Each staff member will receive an email, containing a unique link to their Staff Council ballot. Please do not share or forward this link.
- Opening the link will take you to a login page on Qualtrics where you will enter your SU credentials (username and password)
- You will then make your selections and submit your ballot.
- Your ballot is tied to your email to ensure one vote per staff person, but votes are reviewed and tallied as if votes were submitted anonymously. SUSC members do not look at any individual voting records as part of the election certification.
- Once you have voted, you will not be able to access the ballot again.
- If you do not receive the email with a link or encounter any other issues with your ballot, please contact staffcouncil@seattleu.edu.
- Voting will close on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 4:30pm. All ballots must be fully submitted before then to be counted. Any ballots in process but not submitted by that time will not be counted in this election.

Updated 05/19/2022.