

# STAFF COUNCIL NEWS



EMORY UNIVERSITY STAFF COUNCIL

JANUARY 2025

## A Note from the Staff Council President: April Cooper Edward



It is my pleasure to serve as the 2024-2025 President of the Staff Council. I am the HR Operations Lead for the Department of Medicine in the School of Medicine. I started my tenure at Emory during the COVID pandemic. It was during a time when no one was in the office, and I was working from home full-time. It was a reclusive and isolating time. I hadn't met most of my colleagues in person and only saw faces over Zoom meetings.

When I received an email from our HR leadership asking for volunteers to serve on the Staff Council (Employee Council at the time), I thought this was an amazing way to meet other Emory University employees. Since I like volunteering my time and resources to different organizations, I thought this was an excellent way to get involved in the Emory community.

My focus this year will be investing in our staff. Staff are one of the most valuable resources here at Emory. We are the foundation that keeps the university strong and thriving. This is why it is so important to grow and nurture our staff. We can accomplish this by listening to staff concerns and suggestions and putting plans into action. I believe growing our staff includes opportunities for job growth, continuing education efforts, additional staff resources, and job satisfaction.

It is my hope to bridge the gap between staff and administration so that we can create a space of open communication and transparency. We are stronger together and can build the Emory that I know is destined for greatness. So, grab your hard hats and safety vests, because we have a lot of work to do. See you on the other side.

## Upcoming Campus Events

**Emory King Week January 14 - 25.** Participate in programs including a film screening, racial healing initiatives, worship services, and volunteering opportunities. Learn more here: <https://religiouslife.emory.edu/programs/king-week/index.html>

**Emory Staff Resource Fair on March 11:** The Emory Staff Resource Fair is on March 11 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Rollins School of Public Health. The fair is being organized by the Emory Black Employee Network, Emory Latinx Resource Network and the Emory Staff Council. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Morieka Johnson at [morieka.v.johnson@emory.edu](mailto:morieka.v.johnson@emory.edu). Learn more about Employee Resource Groups here: <https://hr.emory.edu/eu/resources/ergs/index.html>

## Employee Hardship Fund: Helping Colleagues in Need

Over the last several years, donations to the Hardship fund have been decreasing and the need for the fund is increasing. Please consider an annual donation to the Hardship Fund to help our friends and colleagues during their time of need. Every little bit helps, no matter how big or how small. If every employee gave \$12 a year to the Hardship Fund, we could make a huge impact for our colleagues who find themselves facing a temporary economic hardship. Donations are tax deductible. Assistance is a grant so recipients do not need to pay the money back. You can read more about the fund in the [Emory News Center story](https://news.emory.edu/stories/2024/03/er_emergency_hardship_fund_07-03-2024/story.html): [https://news.emory.edu/stories/2024/03/er\\_emergency\\_hardship\\_fund\\_07-03-2024/story.html](https://news.emory.edu/stories/2024/03/er_emergency_hardship_fund_07-03-2024/story.html)

It's easy to give:

1. Log on to PeopleSoft/Self-Service: <http://leo.cc.emory.edu>
2. Click on the Employee Giving tile
3. Choose Emory Employee Giving
4. Choose Emory University Hardship Fund in the Direction scroll-down menu
5. Follow the directions to complete the process

## Community Fridge & Pantry

Staff Council is supporting the Emory Community Fridge and Pantry. The Community Fridge and Pantry is available to anyone on campus who needs food- no questions asked. **The fridge is located on the first floor of the AMUC.** If you enter from the ADA ramp entrance, the fridge is directly inside to the right. To receive food stock updates, please follow the fridge on Instagram @emorycommunityfridge.

The Community Fridge is in need of volunteers to pick up, cool, package, and transport the food. The locations are all very close to each other starting at the Emory Student Center, Few Hall Kitchen and the final stop of the AMUC where the fridge is located. Please reach out to Liz Carlino if you are interested in volunteering: [elizabeth.carlino@emory.edu](mailto:elizabeth.carlino@emory.edu).

You can learn more about the Community Fridge here: <https://dining.emory.edu/resources/food-security-resources.html>

EMORY  
**COMMUNITY FRIDGE & PANTRY**

TAKE WHAT YOU NEED!

Located on the first floor of AMUC  
Alumni Memorial University Center  
630 Means Drive

For stocking updates & more info follow us on Instagram  
@EMORYCOMMUNITYFRIDGE

Illustrations of food items: a sandwich, a bag of pasta, a can of soup, a box of cereal, a bag of chips, a bunch of grapes, an orange, and sliced tomatoes.

## Meet the Emory Staff Council

The Staff Council is authorized by the President of Emory University as an organization through which employees of the university can participate responsibly and meaningfully in the governance of the University community. While the Staff Council is not a decision-making body in regard to University policy, it shall provide information and ideas to those in decision-making positions and seek to represent and support the staff perspective to the administration for the betterment of the University community.

Members of the Staff Council are full-time employees of Emory University and are selected from all organizational areas and employee levels throughout the University. You can learn more about the [staff council members here](https://staffcouncil.emory.edu/representatives-members/representative-members-list.html): <https://staffcouncil.emory.edu/representatives-members/representative-members-list.html>. The Council meets once a month and hosts an annual Spring Leadership Social for the University community to engage with President Fenves and the University's Leadership Team.

Staff Council Committees include: By LAWS, Communications, Executive, Hardship Fund, Health and Wellness, Membership, Office of DEI, Special Issues and Event, and University Senate Representation. Each month, through this newsletter, we will keep the University employees updated on the work of the Staff Council and its committees.

The Council works to address issues of common concern involving the life of the University:

1. Communicate with staff at all organizational levels regarding the various policies, practices, and programs of the university;
2. Seek to foster closer working relationships between the organizational areas and staff at Emory by endorsing and promoting community-building programs and activities;
3. Deliberate on policies and programs proposed by the Division of Human Resources, by Council representatives, or by members of the faculty and staff, and, when appropriate, make recommendations to the appropriate authorities of the university;
4. Act in support of the principles of equal opportunity/accessibility/diversity/inclusion fully committed to a diverse workforce

The Emory Staff Council welcomes questions, comments or feedback from Emory's valued employees.

- Email: [staffcouncil@emory.edu](mailto:staffcouncil@emory.edu)
- Anonymous Comment/Question Submission: <https://bit.ly/EmpCouncilComment>