What goes on in an APSAC meeting?
We discuss things like Purdue policy and ways to help make Purdue better. Each month we hear a report from the University Officer and the Human Resource Services Officer as well as reports from each of the APSAC subcommittees (Membership & Staff Relations, Compensation & Benefits, and Professional Development). We also discuss any current hot topics that may be affecting A/P staff. We often have a guest speaker who gives a 30 minute presentation. Past presentations have been about the Healthy Purdue Initiatives, the Reduction in Workforce policy, and a Q&A with the Provost.

What has APSAC been doing?
Recent APSAC activities include:
- Providing recommendations on the proposed Parental Leave Policy, many of which were approved and included.
- Voicing strong support for the continuation of the Healthy Purdue Program and moving forward with Strategic Plan recommendations to pursue greater medical and retirement plan choices and flexibility options.
- Holding the first joint full-membership meeting of APSAC and CSSAC and formed a Joint Leadership Committee to prioritize and strategize initiatives common to both groups.
- Organizing and promoting the APSAC 20th Anniversary “Be Your Own Best Champion” Self-Improvement Fair and Reception in 2008.
- Sponsoring the Hadley Lecture Series speaker, in conjunction with the Self-Improvement Fair. Ken Johnson, chaplain of the Indianapolis Colts spoke on “Be Your Own Best Champion”.
- Reviving interest in the CIC Association of Professional Staff Councils by hosting the first teleconference meeting of Big Ten A/P representatives in over two years.
- Gaining administrative support for an annual Staff Memorial Service and the establishment of a permanent Staff Memorial site on campus.
- Awarding 53 grants of up to $750 to help A/P staff members cover the cost of professional development activities.
- Lobbying for and, in April 2009, receiving official University Senate approval for an additional non-voting advisory seat, so that representation on the Senate would not have to rotate each year between APSAC & CSSAC.

What are the time requirements for APSAC members?
The major time requirements for APSAC are:
- APSAC full meeting (second Wednesday every month from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.)
- APSAC Subcommittee meeting (generally 1 hour each month – most meet the same day as the full meeting)
- Each subcommittee has busy times, so you might have extra duties outside of the meetings from time to time.

On average, the above tasks take about 4 to 8 hours each month for most of the year. Each subcommittee has one month that they are busiest, so for that one month, it could be 12 to 18 hours.

Also, the number of representatives for individual areas and each individual’s effort in outreach to their constituents can affect the time commitment of an APSAC representative. In addition, APSAC has representatives on several University level committees. If a member chooses to serve on one of those committees, then that could add 1 to 3 more hours each month. Finally, APSAC members can run for chair or vice chair of APSAC or one of the subcommittees, which can also add time each month.
Do APSAC members have to work outside of normal business hours?
As noted above, this depends on how many APSAC duties a member takes on and how busy he or she is in their regular job. When many new members first join APSAC, they only attend the monthly meetings for ASPAC and their subcommittee’s monthly meeting. As members choose to take on more responsibility, it is up to each individual, working with their supervisor, to decide how best to balance the additional time commitments. The most demanding positions are APSAC chair and vice chair. A former APSAC chair said that he couldn’t fit all the work he did in his job, APSAC meetings, the APSAC chair duties, one University level committee, and the Strategic Plan Steering committee into 40 hours. He said he effectively had to work extra every week.

Why aren’t APSAC meetings open to all A/P staff?
We frequently discuss policies and other topics early on in the process. This gives APSAC the ability to have an influence on changes at Purdue. Unfortunately, this also means that what we are discussing is not even close to being ready for open discussion by the entire Purdue community. Additionally, we’ve found that visitors don’t have the advantage of knowing all the background information which often leads to the spread of misinformation. However, there are often meetings which you can attend. If you are interested in attending an APSAC meeting, please contact your APSAC representative. He or she can work with the APSAC chair to determine a meeting or partial meeting that might be good to sit in on. This is a good thing to do if you are interested in becoming an APSAC representative for your area as it gives you more information about the monthly meetings.

We appreciate your desire to know what is going on at Purdue, and we understand that closed meetings can be frustrating to those on the outside. That is why we work to keep all A/P staff on campus as informed as we can through our monthly updates. You can find an archive of our monthly updates on our web site. If you do not receive the monthly updates by e-mail, please contact your APSAC representative and ask to be added to his or her constituent list.