



JANUARY 2026

# NUGGETS OF NEWS

News from UNC Charlotte Staff Council

## Next Monthly Meeting - February 2026

The next Staff Council meeting will be on **Wednesday, February 11, 2026**.

- Location: Hybrid, Halton Reading Room, J. Murrey Atkins Library and Zoom
- **3:00 - 4:00 PM**
- Speaker: **Dr. Richard Amon**, Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs and Chief Financial and Administrative Officer
- [Meeting Agenda](#)

**[Sign Up Here](#)** for our Virtual Monthly Meeting Option!

## UNC Charlotte Staff Council

Chair: **Jessica Waldman**

Vice Chair: **Tammie Lyons**

Secretary: **Pam Erickson**

Treasurer: **Kelly Ortiz**

Communications: **Carrie DaSilva**

Technology Officer: **Jen Knight**

<https://staffcouncil.charlotte.edu>

[staffcouncil@charlotte.edu](mailto:staffcouncil@charlotte.edu)

### Staff concerns? Let us know!

The Staff Council is dedicated to representing the voices of staff within our community. The Staff Relations Committee addresses issues and concerns related to University policies and procedures. Staff are encouraged to share their concerns by submission of our [webform](#).



## A Note from the Staff Council Chair:

On behalf of Staff Council, welcome back from Winter Break and best wishes for a productive and happy Spring 2026 semester!

Please continue to direct questions and concerns to the Staff Council via the [Staff Relations Committee Submission Form](#), and we will work with the University leadership to address them as quickly and comprehensively as possible.

In service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jessica".

## Important Dates - January and February 2026

January 12, 2026 - First day of classes for Spring 2026 Full Term

January 19, 2026 - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day - University Closed

January 26, 2026 - Census Date for Spring Enrollment

February 2, 2026 - Groundhog Day - [Learn more about Groundhog Day and Punxsutawney Phil!](#)

February 7, 2026 - 49er Gold Rush 5K - [Full Details and Registration](#)

February 12, 2026 - Deadline to Apply for May 2026 Graduation

February 16, 2026 - Presidents' Day

Visit the [Academic Calendar](#) for the complete calendar and important deadlines.



## Office of Sustainability Events

### Great Decisions Lecture: The Future of Human Rights and International Law

February 4, 6PM - 8PM, Dubois Center at UNC Charlotte Center City

### Climate Change Quilt Workshop

February 17, 2PM - 4PM, Area 49 Makerspace, Atkins Library 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

### Personally Speaking: "It's in Our Bones: A Biological Microhistory of Identity and Community in Ancient Bolivia" - Sara Juengst, Ph.D.

February 18, 4:15PM - 6:45PM, Halton Reading Room, Atkins Library

[To RSVP for the above events or for more events and training opportunities, visit the Office of Sustainability's website.](#)

## From Niner Insider - Share Your AI Stories

OneIT is collecting [real AI administrative user stories](#) about how generative AI is transforming daily work at UNC Charlotte.

## Campus Disruptions, Delays and Detours

Stay on top of projects that could affect your commute across campus by [visiting this link](#).

## Campus Connections

### BE NINER READY

The Office of Emergency Management encourages you to Be NinerReady for any campus situation. Visit their [website](#) to access the university's operational status, check the weather, sign up for Niner Alerts and Niner Notices, and learn how to prepare yourself to be Niner Ready.

### UNIVERSITY OMBUDS

If you're looking for a confidential and unbiased resource to address workplace challenges and conflicts, the University Ombuds team is ready to assist you! Visit our Ombuds [website](#) for more information.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Staff Council has launched a friendly new Professional Development website just for you! It's packed with great opportunities to grow and learn on campus. Come check it out and see what's available to help you on your journey! To learn more, visit our [website](#).

### POLICE & PUBLIC SAFETY LOG

Stay informed about campus incidents by regularly checking the [Police Log](#) — it's an essential resource for important updates!



## Botanical Gardens Classes and Walks

### Nature Therapy Walk

**A way to connect you more deeply to your inner landscapes as well as the world around you.**

Date: First Saturday of the month from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
February 7, 2026 | March 7, 2026 | April 4, 2026 | May 2, 2026



### Gratitude in the Gardens Walk

**The attitude of gratitude - a conscious habit to express thankfulness and appreciation for every part of your life.**

Date: First Friday of the month from 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm  
February 6, 2026 | March 6, 2026 | April 3, 2026 | May 1, 2026



## Campus Connections

### THE ARTS AT CHARLOTTE

Do you enjoy the arts? The College of Arts + Architecture hosts an impressive array of performances, exhibitions, and college events. Check out their [events calendar](#), reserve your tickets, and stay informed about all the exciting happenings on campus!

### BOTANICAL GARDENS

The mission of UNC Charlotte's Botanical Gardens is to inspire a love for plants and nature through programming, classes, and botanical displays. See what's coming on their [events calendar](#) and [sign up for news](#).

### PERKS AT WORK

Human Resources has compiled a list of "Perks at Work" available for the UNC Charlotte Community. To keep informed about these benefits, you can [subscribe to receive email updates](#).

### OFFICE OF ONEIT EVENTS AND COURSES

Did you know that the Office of OneIT provides training classes for Google applications? If you're facing challenges with Google Sheets, Slides, or want to learn how to use Forms and more, they have a variety of courses available. To view the complete list of offerings and to register, be sure to check out their [website](#)!



## Golden Nuggets

Congratulations to our Golden Nugget Winners! For a complete list of Golden Nugget winners or to nominate a colleague, please visit our [website](#).

## Health Education Leadership and Prevention (H.E.L.P) Certificate

The Center for Wellness Promotion has an exciting new opportunity available for faculty and staff. The Health Education Leadership and Prevention

H.E.L.P. Certificate is an opportunity for faculty and staff to gain skills and confidence in supporting students and colleagues impacted by interpersonal violence, substance use, mental health, and basic medical emergencies.

Faculty and staff will gain knowledge of campus health and wellbeing resources and referral skills to connect students and peers with appropriate care. Please visit the Learning and Development portal to get started.

## Professional Development Opportunities for Staff

Visit the Staff Council [website](#) for upcoming professional development events, resources and links.

## Charlotte Microcredentials Open Mic for Faculty and Staff

A follow-up from the 1<sup>st</sup> Charlotte Microcredentials Forum, faculty and staff will get the latest updates on the state of microcredentials at UNC Charlotte. [Register to attend!](#)

## Campus Connections

### 49ER LAUNDRY

Staff members can utilize the on-campus dry cleaning service provided by 49er Laundry. You can drop off your dry cleaning or laundry at one of the laundry lockers, and your freshly cleaned garments will be returned by the next business day.

### DINING SERVICES FIVE BLOCK FEAST

Staff can purchase five meals for \$40 for all-you-can-eat dining at SoVi and the renovated Social 704 during summer. This offers budget-friendly meals with colleagues, saving 35% compared to the regular lunch price of \$12.25. For more information, visit the Auxiliary Services website and check the Optional Dining Account link.

### BOOKSTORE DISCOUNTS

Barnes & Noble Charlotte, located in the Popp Martin Student Union, provides a 20% discount on all merchandise for faculty and staff presenting a university ID. This discount is available anytime, allowing you to grab some fantastic branded apparel and display your Niner pride!

Additionally, once a year in the fall, typically on Reading Day in December, the discount rises to 30%—ideal for stocking up or doing your holiday shopping!



## University SHRA Employee Grievance Policy Changes

The State Human Resources Commission has recently approved revisions to the SHRA Employee Grievance Policy, which took effect on December 1. These updates are designed to improve clarity, ensure consistency across various agencies and institutions, and align the policy with recent legislative changes.

Key Updates Include:

- New Employment Preference for National Guard Members: A statutory change now allows individuals covered under the National Guard employment preference to be eligible for the formal grievance procedure.
- Clarification of Grievable Issues: The policy now offers clearer guidance on what concerns are eligible for the formal grievance process versus those that should be addressed through the Informal Discussion/Informal Inquiry process or other alternative dispute resolution methods established by the University.
- Updated EEO References: Revisions have been made to ensure alignment with current Equal Employment Opportunity policy language and standards.
- [Learn more](#)

These updates aim to foster a fair and transparent process for addressing employee concerns while remaining consistent with current state policies and procedures.

## Campus Connections

### ATHLETIC TICKETS

UNC Charlotte Faculty and Staff are eligible for the following [ticket benefits](#) to Charlotte 49ers athletic events:

- Season Ticket Offers
- Single Game Ticket Offers

Ticket prices are valid for current faculty & staff and covers spouses and dependents. If you have questions or need assistance please stop by the 49ers Ticket Office at Halton Arena, call 704-687-4949 or email [niner@charlotte.edu](mailto:niner@charlotte.edu).

### J. MURREY ATKINS LIBRARY - FACULTY AND STAFF

Atkins Library offers fantastic benefits for faculty and staff. Here are just a few:

- [Item Delivery](#)
- [Interlibrary Loan and Document Delivery](#)
- [Exhibits and Projects](#)

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Environmental Health and Safety at Charlotte provides various opportunities for participation. Explore their [website](#) to discover a range of services, resources, education, and training options available!