

# THE HOURLY



The Non-Exempt Staff Council Monthly Newsletter  
Trinity College ♦ 300 Summit St. ♦ Hartford, CT

December 2024

## About the NESC

The Non-Exempt Staff Council functions in the interest of Trinity College Administrative Staff employees on the bi-weekly payroll. The Council serves as a liaison between the Administration of the College and Administrative Staff and makes recommendations designed to strengthen and improve communications, the working environment, and the Trinity community. On behalf of administrative staff, the committee brings forward concerns, issues, and ideas to the attention of the appropriate College administrators via the Senior Administrative Liaison as appointed by the President of the College.

## Join us!

1. **Bring** a smile and raise a cup at the Employee Service Recognition Award, December 5, 2024, 12:30 pm. Invitations will be sent your email!
2. **Wear** your ugly sweater, bring an item for the food drive, and enjoy hot chocolate bar and snacks at the Winter Wonderland Party on December 12, 2024, 3-6 pm, in Hamilin Dining Hall.
3. **Wonder** what's going on in Human Resources? Bring your questions to the NESC meeting on January 8, 2025. Additional information is forthcoming!

## Staff Ombudsperson Policy

The Staff Ombudsperson Policy ensures that staff have a neutral, independent, confidential and informal resource, who provides assistance in identifying options for addressing and/or resolving workplace, employment-related issues and/or conflicts. The service is intended to help you exercise problem solving capabilities in order to arrive at, and implement, workable solutions on your own.

### **Our staff ombudspersons are:**

Curtis Gamble – Access Control and Card Services Manager  
Marcia Phelan Johnson – Budget Director

Learn more by visiting [Trinity's Ombudsperson page!](#)

## NESC News:

With the help of Anita Davis, VPDEI, six current and former NESC members have come together to reimagine the Non-Exempt Staff Council. With this in mind, this group has taken up the task of updating the by-laws. Once finalized, the non-exempt staff will be notified via email.

## 2024-2025 NESC Members

### **Executive Officers:**

#### ***Co-Chairs:***

Elizabeth Landel-Simon  
Jim McLaren, III

#### ***Secretary:***

Judy Grote

### **Council Members:**

Sean Donnelly  
Robin Kelly  
Teresita Romero

### **ESC Liason:**

TBA

### **Senior Staff Liason:**

Anita Davis, VPDEI

### **Standing Committees Members:**

#### ***Benefits/Wellness Committees:***

Jim McLaren, III

#### ***Planning & Budget Council:***

Elizabeth Landel-Simon

#### ***Exempt Staff Council:***

Judy Grote

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## Meetings – All Welcome

Starting in January: First & Third Wednesdays of every month, 1:30 – 2:30 pm

In-person and online.

Zoom Information: TBA

Visit us at <https://www.trincoll.edu/nsc/>



## Meet the Officers of the NESC!

### Elizabeth Landell-Simon, Co-Chair

Meet Elizabeth, one of the Administrative Assistant superheroes in McCook Hall who has been keeping the gears of that building of awesome nuts and squirrels running smoothly for nearly 13 years. From coordinating events & schedules with Swiss-watch precision to navigating the labyrinth of college policies, she's seen and done it all — from the great photocopier crisis of 2012 to the infamous coffee spill of 2017.

Now, she's re-stepping back into a new adventure as co-chair of the non-exempt staff council, teaming up with her new partner-in-crime, Jim McLaren. Together, we will pick up where our beloved Jorge left off by tackling the tough stuff: fighting for fairness, advocating for the staff, and probably trying to figure out why the fax machine still exists.

When she's not solving problems before they even happen, she will try and ensure that everyone's voice is heard, their concerns are addressed, and that the photocopier never runs out of toner. With almost 13 years of experience at Trinity College and counting under her belt, Elizabeth's leadership is efficient, organized, and — let's be honest — probably filled with snacks and caffeine (*if you've ever set foot in McCook-then you know*).

Watch out as she's just getting started!

### Jim A. McLaren, III, Co-Chair

Howdy Ya'll-

Welcome to new beginnings for the Non-Exempt Staff. We are building upon what Jorge Lugo and his predecessors through the years built as chairs of the NESC and to reinvigorate the NESC.

I was asked to come up with a quick blurb about me—something I do not do well, but here goes. Think skinny Santa [yes with a heavy white beard] who toils away in Clement Chemistry Building. My title is Lab Technician/Chemical Hygiene Officer/Nuclear Safety Officer. Like all Non-Exempt Staff, the title does not cover the full width and breadth of what my job entails. But the short story is—trying to keep the chemists and budding chemists safe, despite their best efforts otherwise.

I volunteered to cochair the NESC [Non-Exempt Staff Council] with Elizabeth Landell-Simon. The NESC represents the hourly staff on campus allowing us to have a seat in various boards and committees on campus so that hourly staff voices may be heard.

If you have any questions about benefits, training, or just want to kvetch, contact one of the NESC board members. If you have any ideas to make work/life easier or safer on campus, we welcome your ideas. We are here to help all hourly staff.

We can always use new board members, so if you are interested, please contact us.

### Judy Grote, Secretary

Judy provides direct support to the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as well as the Vice President for Strategic Marketing and Communications. She is originally from south Florida and graduated from the University of Connecticut with a degree in Human Development and Family Studies. Judy serves as the Secretary of the NESC and represents the Council on the Exempt Staff Council.