UNIVERSITY BENEFITS COMMITTEE

MINUTES: March 29, 2012

Members Present: Terry Borg, Cliff Bottiglero, Virginia Cassidy, Deborah Haliczer, Amy Levin, Pamela Rosenberg, Gina Shannon, Sherry Spear

Guests: Jim Lockard

The meeting was called to order at 10:04. The agenda was approved as amended, with additions under New Business, and the minutes from the February 16, 2012 meeting were approved without changes.

Old Business:

- Haliczer reported that Benefits Choice will begin May 1, 2012, with no specific end date. Changes to everything except medical insurance coverage can be made during this time. A second Benefits Choice period will be announced whenever decisions on medical insurance coverage are made. The Quality Care contract is up for rebid this year, as are the OAP and HMO choices. Other carriers will remain the same. No Benefits Choice books will be printed.
- New Benefits Statements will be going to all employees’ home addresses. CMS would like all members to log into their page on the website to update personal information and make any changes as necessary.
- There will be no Benefits Choice Fairs this year.
- Regional Benefit Education seminars are scheduled to be conducted by CMS across the state. CMS has asked universities to host these events to CMS staff can come and brief members. They have asked for space for at least 1000, for both a day and evening event, and that AV be provided so video can be published online for those who could not attend. NIU has not yet received fiscal approval to do this.
- No new updates. Those who are retiring are being asked to sign a new insurance enrollment form from SURS instead of having the insurance coverage roll from active to retirement status. On April 17, the Governor’s Pension Commission will report their recommendations. It was reported that over 200 changes to the Illinois pension law have occurred over the last 10 years without any financial analysis on those changes.
- SUAA is hosting regional meetings on April 10 at Elgin Community College and on April 13 at Moraine Valley Community College. On April 25 the Annuitants Association will be going to Springfield for alumni day and will be participating in a reception with area legislators.
- A mailing will be going out on March 30 concerning SURS meetings on May 15, 16, & 17. Appointments can begin being scheduled on April 2.
- Thank you to the Annuitants Association for the blast email about the Dependent Tuition Waiver bill. It has passed committee and is on to the House. The university presidents are actively fighting this issue.
- No updates on the part-time employee benefits issue.
New Business:

- The Committee would like to do financial education on campus with the 403B vendors, but it must be done fairly to allow equal opportunity for vendors to promote their products. Haliczer will be sending out an email to all 403B vendors asking them to coordinate amongst themselves to put together a seminar on financial education in the fall.
- HB4996 is being proposed. This bill would amend the pension code concerning work done by retirees. The bill reads: Provides that if an employer notifies the State Universities Retirement System that it has employed an annuitant for more than 100 paid days or 500 paid hours in a school year, then the System shall certify to the employer the current value of the annual retirement annuity of that annuitant. Provides that if an employer receives such a certification, then the employer shall pay the certified amount to the System within one year after receiving the certification; amends numerous universities and public community colleges acts to make conforming changes. Progressed to 2nd Calendar Reading in Originating House.
- The Committee agreed that a meeting with Steve Cunningham is desired. Haliczer will work with him to set up a meeting.
- Haliczer proposed an idea to have the Benefits Committee work with the Annuitants Association to host a seminar on post-retirement lifestyles, which would include such issues as preparing for changes in one’s personal life, where to live during retirement, and career planning for retirement. Gina Shannon will be on the subcommittee. Haliczer will send a request for consideration for the April 25 meeting of the Annuitants Association.

Next meeting will take place in conjunction with the meeting with Steve Cunningham. The date and time are to be announced.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Rosenberg, Secretary