

UNIVERSITY BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

February 4, 2021 – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Via Teams

Present: Therese Arado; Terry Borg; Katy Cady; Liz Guess; Sabrina Hammond; Chad McEvoy; Beth McGowan; Dan Pedersen and Phillip Torgerson

Absent: Varsie Geisler and Emerson Sebastiao

- I. Call to order – Meeting Called to Order
- II. Agenda Additions/Approval – Motion for agenda and additions carried.
- III. Approval of Minutes – November minutes approved with Cady; December minutes approved with move Dan Pedersen to SPS
- IV. Constituent Reports
 - a. Annuity Association – Sabrina Hammond no report.
 - b. SPS – Terry Borg in response experience of fraudulent unemployment claims, suggests that HRS find a discount program for credit monitoring.
Liz responded: State of Illinois My Benefits Plus has one available for employees, not annuitants, the State has with relationship with vendor, but it's not a state program. Available for employees. Liz cannot answer questions about the program as it is not sponsored by either NIU or State.
 - c. Operating Staff and Civil Service-- Phillip Torgerson no report.
 - d. Faculty – Beth McGowan no report
Kate Cady – UFA research funds getting worked out.
 - e. Provost's Office – Chad McEvoy
 - i. Vaccines – Fed kicked it to state, state to county, University faculty/staff not part of 1B group; Other qualifications available. NIU lobbying governor to prioritize universities. Union and Administration both lobbying State.
 - ii. Terry Borg encouraging constituents to lobby government to change our status.
 - iii. Register with Health Dept or any other option, do it as soon as you can and everywhere.
 - iv. If you live outside of DeKalb County you can register in either or both counties. Register all around to get it the earliest. DeKalb -- you may live or work in DeKalb to be vaccinated.
 1. Sabrina Hammond – encouraging folks to register at multiple sites.
 2. Dan Pedersen NIU community needs to be provided to vaccine hesitant.
 - v. Announcement: COVID 19 Panel

- f. Human Resources – Liz Guess
 - i. Unemployment fraud: Fraudsters using incorrect employee info, people targeted more than once, if you get a 1099, look out.
 - ii. Family First benefit expired Dec 31, 2020. The University extended to June 30. Looking to hear from Federal government.
 - iii. HR tracking those expenses, about 300 employees used. Grant for student employees who need to quarantine or isolation if they cannot work.

- V. Old Business – Definition of Benefits and Committee Role
Once more: What falls within purview of the Committee?

Chad – adjustment in parking fees? Do they come to this group? Therese suggests that parking is the origin of the discussion was a desire to define Committee’s role and its purview. We have submitted letters to President and Parking Committee about these topics. Terry Borg -- Seems there is a proposed increase in parking fees for next year. There was a rebate last year, which was by and large redirected to students. Parking lots are not being plowed. Convo Center is not being maintained. Parking lots used by community should be maintained.

Dan Pedersen – Grounds personnel have only 25% of standard staff. Convo center is in part intentional. Limited crew and limited use, prioritize work.

John Heckman will be invited in to discuss the parking fees as soon as is convenient to him.

Terry Borg suggested that for our next meeting, update, benefit sign up information would be helpful. This year big changes for new HMOs are expected, information usually becomes available in February. There will probably be big changes this year. When final information comes in for schedule of a.) Wellness Fair, b.) Benefit Sign-Up Fair will be appreciated.

- VI. New Business – No new business
- VII. Announcements – Next meeting March 4, 2021
- VIII. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned.