

## UNIVERSITY BENEFITS COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2021 – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

#### Via Teams

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

**Absent:**

- I. Call to order – Meeting Called to Order
- II. Agenda Additions/Approval – Motion for agenda and additions carried.
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Constituent Reports
  - a. Annuitants Association – Sabrina Hammond
    - i. Encourage employees to apply for help with \$500 professional development SUA foundation website
    - ii. Bereavement services to families for retired staff or only current employees? Liz bereavement services available to employees
    - iii. Trying to increase membership. There is a membership planning commission, found barely 1% membership across campus, sent out information. Result: 348 new members.
    - iv. Legislative side of work for Annuitants is really important.
    - v. SUA meeting, legislative background history video available online.
    - vi. Increase taxes on retirement income, over \$50,000
    - vii. SUA board of elections coming up, someone from NIU on the ticket.
  - b. SPS – Terry Borg: no report; Dan Pedersen: no report
  - c. Operating Staff and Civil Service-- Phillip Torgerson
    - i. Concern about when we are coming back to campus. After vaccines?  
  
Liz: Return to campus is happening, hope for Fall 2021, rolling return.  
  
Lobbying to get higher moved up in line for vaccines, not yet happened.  
  
Many have been on campus most of the time, but clarification wanted.
  - d. Faculty – Beth McGowan no report; Kate Cady – no report
  - e. Provost's Office – Chad McEvoy
    - i. Spring semester, we are planning for fall
    - ii. Issues of rolling return
    - iii. Contingency plans
    - iv. Questions posed:
      1. No events more than 50 people; do events have to be registered by university or can people just meet? Student event? Student affairs Elsewhere?

2. Depends on division, athletics with athletics, academic, dept college university flow Dan Pedersen, need to register attendees to trace a week or so after event.

v. Sabrina, are we having a wellness fair? No. Wellness workshops.

f. Human Resources – Liz Guess

i. No Wellness Fair

ii. Middle of April, many changes with medical insurance plans not yet known.

iii. Question posed: What fairs and sessions will help people to understand?

Guess responds: State will create info, we will supplement with extra info for our campus.

II. Old Business –

- Borg: my benefits plus, credit monitoring is hard to navigate, find, sign up for.

V. New Business

Liz: they are trying to promote more, but they don't seem to be able to communicate it well. The website does not seem to make available.

John Heckmann will come, parking permit possible changes, April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Other issues?

- SPS Council Laura said there will not be an increase in parking.
- Pedersen: Where do fees go? Roads? Lots? Ramps? Deteriorating infrastructure. Seems that like other campuses, we should have a five-year strategic plan to shuttle in, cut costs in infrastructure. Make campus more pedestrian friendly.
- McEvoy: John Heckman does have that information. We must not overstep bounds of Parking Committee, even though parking is a kind of benefit. . .
- Arado: we will be additional sounding board, not do anything.
- Borg: John's overall responsibility is quite broad. Which of areas that he covers are benefits?
- Arado: Liz says we need a def of benefits to ask John what he thinks.

III. Announcements – Next meeting April 1, 2021

IV. Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned.