

UNIVERSITY BENEFITS COMMITTEE

AGENDA

First Thursday of the Month – 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Present: Chris McCord, Ellen Hamrick, Terry Borg, Emily Hochstatter, Liz Guess, Dan Pedersen, Jim Slagstad, William Goldenberg

Absent: Eric Armstrong

Via Teams

- I. Call to Order
- II. Agenda Additions/Approval - none
- III. Constituent Reports
 - a. Annuitants Association: no reports
 - b. SPS: no report
 - c. Operating Staff: Linda Yates Shagler chair of workplace guidance committee of OSC, might want to invite to next meeting. (see below)
 - d. Faculty: no report
 - e. Administration: noted that there could be some collateral impact of the Northwestern Medicine contract renewal. NIU is exploring options for employees to use NWM services.
 - f. Human Resources: Deferred compensation notice coming out; vendors beginning to return to campus. Setting up process for meeting with various counselors, meetings are with university employees. Some reps. Are vendor reps. State plans are handled through CMS. They are reps for entities associated with NIU; these reps are affiliated with NIU, but are not NIU or state employees. TB: available to annuitants? LG: primary purpose is to serve employees. TB: would like to have option for face to face
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Travel insurance for annuitants. Emily Hochstatter reported that NIU has the option to amend our policy to allow “guests of the university” to purchase travel insurance. The preliminary sense was that this would need to be billed through the university, mostly as a means of ensuring that the individuals truly were affiliated with the university. Emily will look into options of implementation.
 - b. University holidays for 2023 have been set. However, looking forward to future years, HRS puts together draft calendar which goes to president’s office, then to University Council for final approval. We could reach out to President’s Office to activate our ability to offer input on the proposal before it leaves President’s office.
- V. New Business
 - a. Dan Peterson and Chris McCord reported on their presentation to University Council. They noted that Linda Srygler, chair of the OSC workplace guidance committee, raised a question about making affordable child care available to lower income employees. Discussion ensued. The sense of the UBC was that it would be more apt for UBC to respond to a proposal brought forward by the workplace guidance committee, rather than for the UBC to take the lead in developing a proposal.
 - b. Jim Slagstad proposed inviting Linda Srygler to the next UBC meeting, more to compare notes on the duties and missions of the two bodies. There was also discussion of inviting Cathy Doederlein to an upcoming meeting, to discuss her new role as Director of Employee Experience
- VI. Announcements - none

VII. Adjournment
1:49 pm