

Benefits Committee - April 17, 2013

Summary of Meeting of the Benefits Subcommittee of the Faculty Senate
4-5PM, Wednesday, April 17, 2013; Searle 2-365

Attendees: Jeri Logemann, Jack Snarr, Kathleen Star, Donna Jurdy;
on speaker phone: Ezra Getzler, Jim Young;
from HR: Pamela Beemer, Anne Fish

1. Introductions of the committee members were made.
2. The committee's motion for a "smoke-free campus" passed at the last Faculty Senate meeting, April 3rd, was reviewed. Next steps were discussed, such as coordination with NUSAC and ASG. The target date of September 1, 2013 might be ambitious. HR suggested that when the new campus status is announced, that it be rolled out as part of a non-smoking initiative. This could include publicizing existing smoking-cessation programs, including no copayment for tobacco-cessation products. Also, the possibility of a monthly surcharge on health insurance premiums (\$25 as a minimum) for smokers was discussed. The Smoke-free campus motion of the Faculty Senate was brought to the Executive Committee meeting on Friday, April 21st with President Shapiro and Provost Linzer.
3. New health insurance costs of \$63 per insured person will be assessed to Employers, as part of the new national health initiative - Affordable Care Act.
4. Day care status was brought up. Bright Horizons has had a successful start; places are reserved for Northwestern Employees. The committee discussed a site visit during the summer - at the Orrington location.
5. An inquiry on expanding investment options with TIAA-CREF was made. Also, having the option of after-tax 403b deductions was brought up. However, additional regulations, federally-mandated, on 403b accounts require greater diligence in the future. Therefore, implementation of additional investment options appears unlikely. More information on impending changes to retirement accounts will be provided as soon as available.
6. The committee needs a member from the Chicago campus. Jack Snarr will make inquiries.
7. Our next meeting will be scheduled sometime in July 2013. In the future, we plan to only meet in the Searle conference room on 3rd floor that has an adequate speaker phone. Using a cell phone speaker was frustrating and inefficient, with time wasted for repetition and volume adjustments.

Donna Jurdy
Chair, Benefits Committee
Faculty Senate Representative
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