

Staff Affairs
April 2, 2012
9:00 – 10:30 am
Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Mary Sue Dates - chair, Nicole Dufour (non-voting member), Ryan Gailor-Keele, Jed Lowell, Robert Mackey, Juella Sparks (non-voting member), Jennifer Youngberg

Excused Absence: Deborah Coxon, Jennifer Elhard, Kim Eames, Heather Leavengood, Pips Veaezy (non-voting member)

Health Care

There was a healthy discussion of the current introduction of the new health care costs and the general feeling of UAF staff as a whole. Now is the time for staff to let their voices be heard as all of the vendor contracts (Blue Cross, Premeria, VSP, etc) are up for renewal. The contracts are written in 5 year increments.

It was agreed there need to be more options. Staff Affairs discussed the option of a higher deductible plan with a health savings account. To have the health savings account the pharmacy plan would need to be re-worked. It is not clear to us, as we have not had the time to do much research, this would be a great option of UAF staff. The health savings account allows you to make withdrawals outside of medical expenses and the amount in the savings rolls over every year; neither of these are an option with the flexible spending account.

The committee agreed to create a petition for staff to sign expressing our concerns about health care and how staff feels devalued in the lack of fight for them by the administration. It is agreed the petition would not be electronic as it is important to get actual signatures. The petition will also provide represented staff and faculty to sign showing support of the unrepresented staff. Once the petition has been approved by the UAF Staff Council President, Pips Veaezy, it will be sent out to all staff council representatives. As signatures are gathered the completed pages will either be scanned and emailed or delivered to Mary Sue Dates as chair of the committee. It will be her responsibility to forward the petition to the UAF Staff Council President, Pips Veaezy, and/or Vice President, Juella Sparks. They in turn will provide the information to the administration and Joint Health Care Committee.

As signatures are gathered staff should be encouraged to write an email or letter to Joe Paskvan, President Gamble, Chancellor Rogers, and the Board of Regents. One email or letter can be written and sent to all listed above. This must be done on personal time and through a personal email.

Staff Affairs will continue to work on and discuss this topic until we believe we have done all we can to represent the staff.

Tuition Waiver

Discussion about the possible changes to the tuition waiver recognize the increase in benefits with the increase in possible credit hours taken each semester and each academic year. However, concerns were voiced about capping credit hours and that the waiver should fall under Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) for students. The committee agreed to review the proposed changes and SAP to come back to the next meeting to discuss a written outline such as SAP. The outline would be reflective of staff using the tuition waiver.

Tobacco Policy

The committee is in favor of a Tobacco Free Campus and not a Tobacco Free Hiring Policy. It was stated UAKJobs has already instituted the Tobacco Free Hiring with a question asking if the applicant or any dependent living in the household uses tobacco. Before going further in action to draw up a motion, it was decided a member of the committee would contact UAF Human Resources and verify if UAKJobs has instituted the Tobacco Free Hiring policy.

Annual / Sick Leave (Cash Out/Buy Out/Combine)

The committee briefly discussed this topic as most of the meeting covered health care costs. The general attitude at this time is UAF has a good system. This will be table to discuss at a later date.

Supplemental Insurance

This will be included in the petition for health care.

Bereavement Leave

UAF has an established bereavement policy.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 am