

SENATE COMMITTEE ON STUDENT AFFAIRS
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 16, 2015

[These minutes reflect discussion and debate at a meeting of a committee of the University Senate; none of the comments, conclusions, or actions reported in these minutes represents the view of, nor are they binding on the Senate, the Administration, or the Board of Regents.]

[**In these minutes:** Welcome, Review of Charge, Student Health Benefits Plan Changes, Student Services Fees Proposed Changes, Office of Student Affairs Initiatives.]

PRESENT: Peter Haeg (chair), Kari Volkmann-Carlsen, Matthew Loomis, Nicholas Goldsmith, David Blank, Patricia Jessa-Whyte, Lisa Erwin, Thomas Bilder, Kyle Kroll, Jillian Ryks, Gabrielle Schmiegel, Kendre Turonie, Michael Stebleton, Susan Mantell, Nitish Mitall, Megan Sweet

REGRETS: Amy Thie

ABSENT: Cecilia Stevens, Rebecca Houske

OTHERS: Alex Brown

GUESTS: Susann Jackson, sr. administrative director, Student Health Benefits; Carl Anderson, director, Boynton Health Services; Sara Carvell, associate director, Office for Student Affairs; Danita Brown Young, vice provost for Student Affairs and dean of students

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** Peter Haeg, chair, called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.
- 2. Charge Review:** Haeg reviewed the charge with members.
- 3. Report of Student Health Benefit Plan:** Susann Jackson, sr. administrative director, Student Health Benefits, and Carl Anderson, director, Boynton Health Services, presented updates on the student health benefit plan. Despite all the new coverage requirements of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), student rates will still drop by 5% this upcoming year. The industry is expecting an increase to premiums of 30-50% on most plans as of January 1, 2016. However, the University student plan has had a couple of years of good benefit claims experience. Jackson and Anderson stated that the University is passing along those savings to the students.

Highlights to the plan include:

- Pediatric dental benefits are enhanced up to age 19. Boynton Health Service for the Twin Cities campus and the Lake Superior Dental Clinic at Duluth

campus will provide those services. Crookston students may visit any dental clinic because no special arrangement has yet been made.

- Coverage limits on the following have been removed: \$100 limit on pediatric vision, prescription copay for Nuvo Ring, annual limit for services related to gender reassignment, the six month waiting period for transplant coverage, the preadmission penalty for out-of-network admission preauthorization, and home health care maximums.
- The sleep studies exclusion is removed.

Jackson provided a handout comparing the University student rates to other plans on the self-insured market. She pointed out that the Blue Access Gold No Deductible Plan on the handout is most similar to the current University student plan, and premiums for that plan are 30% more than the University student plan premiums.

The University is now in full compliance with the ACA. Per Anderson, those that look at the market will likely choose the University plan, especially since many government plans are losing subsidies. Boynton Health Services is proud of the plan; Anderson and Jackson believe it is one of the best student plans in the country.

The University used to have two insurance products for students, one of which was a richer plan with less out of pocket, but it became unsustainable as the enrollment dropped and thus the risk pool and cost increased. That plan was dissolved because the loss ratios were over 100%. Due to health insurance reform, the base plan has been fleshed out and can now adequately serve all students.

Anderson and Jackson addressed some issues that are of concern to students.

- The decision not to cover Truvada, an HIV prevention drug. In looking at the absolute risk versus the relative risk, they decided that coverage of Truvada wasn't an option for the student plan at this time, though it may be added in the future. The plan does cover post and pre-exposure medication.

Concern was expressed over the lack of coverage, given that students are going to local nonprofits to obtain the drug. Additionally the cost, at \$7 a month increase in premium, does not seem prohibitive. Ms. Jackson stated that the University couldn't count on rates decreasing or maintaining every year. Many specialty drugs are not covered. She said that students are heard and consulted; all options are considered but if the plan becomes too expensive, enrollment decreases, and adversely affects the risk pool.

- The out-of-Boynton pharmacy issue concerns coverage for prescriptions that have to be filled outside of Boynton pharmacy hours. There is no coverage for these costs. The plan does provide reimbursement for emergency

prescriptions off of Boynton pharmacy hours. Emergency prescriptions can be written for a night or two and turned into Boynton for reimbursement. The prescription could then be filled by Boynton pharmacy during open hours.

Anderson noted that there are differences in the coverage for employees and that for students. He said that the University covers 75%-85% of the cost for employee coverage. The graduate student plan is subsidized as well. The student plan receives no subsidies, so there will be differences in benefits. Students should be aware of this, he emphasized.

In the interest of time, Haeg concluded the discussion, and stated that if questions remained unanswered, Jackson and Anderson could return to another meeting.

4. Proposed Changes to Student Services Fees Guidelines: Sara Carvell, associate director, Office for Student Affairs (OSA), presented proposed changes to the Student Services Fees Committee (SSFC) guidelines. The resolutions that were presented to the committee had been approved by both the SSFC and Vice Provost Danita Brown Young.

Carvell presented four changes:

- Resolution 1: The SSFC selection process. “The Senate Committee on Student Affairs (SCSA) will appoint the SSFC selectors.”

The selectors are the individuals who appoint the fee committee. It was recommended that individuals be appointed by the SCSA because the fee committee felt, as members of fee-receiving organizations, they had a conflict of interest. The proposal called for three students and one faculty or staff, plus Carvell, to serve on the committee.

Concern was expressed over the inclusion of faculty or staff on a committee related to student fees, and over the decision to change the composition of the committee from four students to three students. It was agreed that the Board of Regents [policy](#) should be reviewed.

Kyle Kroll moved to amend the proposal to four voting students and one advisory faculty or staff. Matthew Loomis seconded the motion.

The motion on the proposed amendment to the original proposal failed, with four in favor, five opposed, and three abstaining.

The committee then voted on the original proposal. **The motion on the original Resolution I passed, with seven in favor, one opposed, and three abstaining.**

- Resolution II: Financial Management. “Either the president or treasurer of student groups new to the SSF process must attend an SSF financial management workshop facilitated by Student Unions & Activities and the Office for Student Affairs prior to receipt of the first SSF check. “
This would apply only to new fee-receiving organizations.

The motion to Resolution II passed with eleven in favor and one abstention.

- Resolution III: Criteria for submission of appeals of final funding recommendation. This resolution states that a student group will only be able to appeal if the SSF committee violated its own rules, if the SSF committee exhibited bias against an appealing organization, or if the SSF committee did not make a decision in a viewpoint neutral manner.

Per Carvell, the reason for the resolution is due to the number of organizations that appeal solely because they are unhappy with the decision of the committee. The time it took the committee to deal with these appeals was overwhelming, she said.

In response to concerns that decisions might be arbitrary, Carvell said that part of the reason for the change is to help groups not spend significant and most likely wasted time on their appeal applications. The process provides many opportunities for student organizations to gather supplemental information and ask questions before the decision is made.

The motion to Resolution III passed with ten in favor, and two abstentions.

- Resolution IV: Require organizations that receive funding from student fees to write on their advertising that they are funded in part or full by student services fees. The reason for doing this is so that all students can see where fee funding goes, and to encourage other groups to apply.

Concern was expressed that this might be a burdensome requirement for student groups. What is the punishment if one does not follow this rule? What if a group forgot to do this? Per Ms. Carvell, the requirement is primarily for large-scale communications and marketing. It is not out of the ordinary for any sort of grant or funding agency to require this. There is no procedure for enforcement; it’s considered best practice and expects a good faith effort.

Nicholas Goldsmith proposed adding “A good faith effort” to the resolution. The amended resolution is “Groups must make a good faith effort to indicate ‘SSF Funded’ on all marketing materials.”

The motion to the amended Resolution IV passed with 11 in favor and 1 abstention.

5. Report on Office of Student Affairs Initiatives

Vice Provost Danita Brown Young reported on initiatives in the Office of Student Affairs (OSA), and provided a handout titled "Office of Student Affairs Values." OSA is working very hard on its mantra for the year. They know students succeed when they connect, engage, and grow, and so the office is working very hard to make that happen. They are working to provide a respectful environment serving the greater community. They want to be certain students are provided with challenging opportunities. Students should stay at the center of everything they do, she said. She went on to describe their main initiatives for the year:

- Interweaving all our values as much as possible where it makes sense and is reasonable.
- Looking at learning and engagement, health and well being, opportunities for leadership experience, the living and learning environment, advocacy and support, organizational health and effectiveness, career development for all students, and finances funding and facilities.
- Ensuring that students are included in all decisions, and have opportunity for involvement in all committees.

The office has been busy working to strengthen their own team while also responding to students' needs. They are exploring the idea of a student assistance center, as One Stop is not as ideal as they want it to be. They want to create something for all the campuses, to make certain all students are aware and connected to what they have to offer. Vice Provost Brown Young concluded by inviting anyone with questions to visit them in 109 Appleby Hall.

Hearing no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Patricia Straub
University Senate