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# The University Senate

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

## Benefits Advisory Committee (BAC)

March 28, 2024

### Minutes of the Meeting

[In these minutes: Welcome; Employee Benefits Update; Prime Therapeutics Plan Review; Employee Benefit Survey; Prime Therapeutics; BAC Elections; Open Discussion]

**PRESENT:** Dale Swanson (chair), Linda R Blake, Mary Blissenbach, Karen M Chapin, Scott W Creer, Kim Dery, Amy Deveney, Shannon L Farrell, Nancy L. Fulton, Ken Horstman, Katie Kolodge, Kim Little, Shane M Lueck, Jennifer J Marshall, Amy Monahan, Bibhu Panda, Ryan Reisdorfer, Shereen S Sabet, Carmen Sims, Libby Stille, Curt Swenson, Douglas C Swyter, Greg Thurston

**GUESTS:** Amy DeVeney, clinical account manager; Kellie Finn, account executive; and Lauryn Zinke, account manager, Prime Therapeutics

### 1. Welcome

Chair Dale Swanson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Employee Benefits Update

Ryan Reisdorfer, health programs manager, Office of Human Resources (OHR) advised the committee that six Requests For Proposals (RFP) are starting in 2024 and will run through 2025. Committee members will be asked to join the RFP teams in the near future.

- **COBRA administrative:** RFP will kick off in May 2024. This contract is effective on 4/1/2025. There isn't a BAC committee member needed on the RFP team.
- **Retire Medical Exchange:** The RFP will start July 2024 and 3 BAC members have volunteered to join this RFP.
- **Pharmacy, Specialty Pharmacy:** RFP is starting July 2024. The RFP team will need 2 people from BAC.
- **Life insurance:** RFP is starting in October 2024. There isn't a BAC committee member needed on the RFP team.
- **Dental insurance:** RFP is starting in October 2024. The RFP team will need 2 people from BAC.
- **Benefit Audit RFP** Is starting in July 2025. There will be more to come on this one. There isn't a BAC committee member needed on the RFP team.

### 3. Prime Therapeutics Plan Review

Kellie Finn, account executive; Amy DeVeney, clinical account manager, and Lauryn Zinke, account manager, Prime Therapeutics, shared a [presentation](#) with the committee. The presentation included information on Prime Therapeutics' pharmacy performance, clinical strategy, survey results, and an update on account management.

The Prime Therapeutics team gave the following responses to questions or comments from the BAC committee:

- When a new drug comes out, Prime “holds” it on an exclusion list that allows time to review the drug trials, and then it goes to different committees to determine where on the Formulary it should be. Prime then works with the University to ensure it works for the University’s plan.
- Efforts are underway to address issues with user experience.
- Officials will ask for a report on the Step Therapy usage. The Step Therapy process considers the types of drugs, the usage, and the cost of the drug.
- Zinke will ask customer service for data regarding how many times members have to call per medication.
- Zinke will ask for data and survey results from when a member answers a survey after a call to customer service.
- Members can see program requirements at <https://www.myprime.com/>.

#### **4. Employee Benefit Survey: Prime Therapeutics**

Greg Thurston reviewed a [document](#) with the committee that shared University employees' comments from the BAC survey. A discussion regarding protecting small pharmacies took place and it was agreed that it is important to protect these pharmacies.

#### **5. BAC Elections**

Swanson advised the group that his term as chair and Amy Monahan’s vice-chair term runs through 6/30/2024. The nominees for chair are Scott Creer and Lynn Blewett and the vice-chair is Amy Monahan. There are 15 eligible people to vote. Members discussed the voting process and expressed concern that not all candidates were present. Due to not all nominees being present it was decided by a vote that Senate Office staff will create a form with the nominees’ statements, which will also be used for voting for chair and vice-chair.

#### **6. Open Discussion**

Swanson opened the meeting up to discuss any topics not on the agenda. Kim Little shared that she has received the following comments from retirees expressing concern regarding the move to the Exchange. Reisdorfer advised that he would like the comments in writing and would like to engage these people in discussion if necessary. He clarified that the University is not getting rid of this benefit, but rather changing how it is delivered. The University is going from 8 plans to over 60 plans with the Exchange. This option will allow all retirees to get benefits that are more affordable and portable. Reisdorfer advised that the selected vendor will have a thorough communication plan for retirees.

Deena Barker  
University Senate Office