University Committee on Faculty Affairs

MINUTES

Tuesday, March 1, 2011


Ex Officio: Terry Curry, David Byelich.

Others: John Revitte, Donna Zischke, Renee Rivard, Chris Hanna, Brent Bowditch.

Call to Order: Professor Moriarty called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Dr. Rodammer made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Dr. Olson. The motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Dr. Jayaraman made a motion to approve the February 15, 2011 Minutes seconded by Dr. Schall.

New Business:
  A. Faculty Work Life with Dr. Robert Banks and Dr. Patricia Lowrie – The presentation centered around coordinating several different offices and bringing those resources together to make a central Work Life Office. This office would function as a source of information for new faculty, gathering federal, state and local information plus school activities and making this a “Go To” office, a center for information. The office could be a good way to coordinate as well as for dissemination of information...this will continue to be discussed further.

Old Business:
  A. Faculty Health Care Committee Follow-up -- Brent Bowditch gave an overview and explained how Human Resources has been studying different options on what is the best/lowest price on medications where the “good deal” is good for both the pharmacy and the patient. The start date of the new pharmacy plan and the next Flexible Spending change date will be January 2012; it would be best is both changed at the same time. It was agreed, as a “nice gesture to faculty,” that the co-pay for specialty meds will be $35.00 from July 1 to December 31, 2011; after that date, the co-pay will go to the current $50.00. Dr. Emmett made a motion to approve adding the acne medications, “the aces, the arms” to the generic prescribing program and approving specialty medications, minus rheumatoid arthritis, which would be 90-day scripts, others would be 30-day scripts only. We would have an agreement with CVS Caremark where they would be exclusive. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jayaraman. The motion carried.

  Discussion continued about the non-sedating antihistamines and NSAs with decongestants. After a complete explanation on what these medications are and what they do, Chairperson Moriarty reminded the Committee and Human Resource staff that HR understands that they need to make a written report on a regular basis to UCFA about what the results are/what’s going on; there is a Faculty Health Care Committee, but on UCFA there is a membership turnover and the information needs to be given to them more frequently. The reporting line needs to be, at a minimum, yearly and,
preferably, more often. Professor Nicholson made a motion to no longer allow coverage for the non-sedating antihistamines (NSAs); Dr. Olson seconded. The motion carried.

Announcements:
A. Deborah Moriarty
   1. The Health Care Committee met Friday, February 18 – they spent a lot of time with the consultant and made a lot of progress. They are looking at Phase I which will eventually lead to an on-site facility...an Urgent Care Facility comprised of 50/50 of doctors/nurse-practitioner, first 2 visits by MSU employees, currently covered by health care, be free – after that the co-pay would be raised to what you currently co-pay. The hours will be set up to facilitate the most of the employees. It may eventually become a permanent care facility. The health care insurance plans would remain the same. There were additional points discussed and will be further discussed and reported on later.
   2. Faculty Council – President Simon spoke about the budget and the fact that the Governor is talking about no raises. She was very careful to talk about our compensation philosophy that we have at MSU...this has been outlined and that is that we need to be able to compete globally, nationally and regionally, and the President was very clear about that.
B. Terry Curry
   1. The Provost announced 3 new policies (that were reviewed by the Personnel Policy Subcommittee and put before the full UCFA).
   2. Personnel Policy Subcommittee will be working on replacing retiring Professor John Revitte.
   3. Very few problems (so far) with the faculty pay change AY/AN.
C. John Revitte - No report was made.
D. David Byelich - Forums will be set up for faculty regarding the proposed retirement policy and health care changes. Information regarding the retirement policy changes will be put on the UCFA web site.

Adjournment: UCFA adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elva Boyles
Recording Secretary