

Brockman, Sara - ETF

From: University of Wisconsin-Parkside Office of the Chancellor <chancellor@uwp.edu>
Sent: Thursday, October 12, 2017 4:35 PM
To: Conlin, Bob - ETF; ETF SMB GIB Feedback
Cc: Glass, Sheronda G; sbrokenburr@uwsa.edu; Ellinger, Lisa - ETF
Subject: University of Wisconsin-Parkside Group Insurance Concerns & Opportunities



October 12, 2017

Dear Secretary Conlin, and members of the Group Insurance Board:

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, I am writing to share concerns about the continuing changes to the health insurance options available in Southeast Wisconsin. These changes are directly impacting UW-Parkside faculty, staff, and retirees. This is the third year in a row that major changes have occurred in the Southeast Region and for many employees they have had to change insurance providers each year.

Employees are concerned about continuity of care, as well as the ability to retain certain providers. Particularly, many are seeking assurance that a current course of treatment will be covered, without disruption, at in-network pricing.

Also, I am very concerned about our retirees. There is a significant amount of confusion about the retiree enrollment process. Further, the terminology related to Medicare supplement coverage is confusing. I highly recommend that ETF hold regional lab sessions or enrollment sessions for these individuals.

The responsiveness of ETF to hear our concerns is very much appreciated and I thank Lisa Ellinger, Director of the Office of Strategic Health Policy, for making time to visit UW-Parkside earlier this month to host six information sessions with employees and retirees. Based on Lisa's presentation, we have a better understanding of the decisions involving health insurance plans, and a better understanding about the broad impact of market forces. Lisa shared statewide data on the impacts of 2018 changes, and for the state as a whole the negative impacts appear to be manageable. It would be helpful to see this same data for the Southeast Region.

In Southeast Wisconsin, employees and retirees have enjoyed the opportunity to use all health systems in the region as a part of their health insurance plans. The changes for 2018 force many employees and retirees to choose between health systems. Both Network Health and WEA Trust have visited campus for information sessions, the campus benefits fair, and one-on-one consultations to inform employees and retirees about their options.

Another concern expressed by employees is health insurance coverage in Tier I plans for dependents who are college students out of state. Additional information is needed as families decide on Tier I or Tier III coverage, while knowing that Tier III plans are three times the cost.

The campus community is pleased to know that premiums will remain the same for 2018 and that most benefits will continue in the new health insurance plans. As you consider plans in the future, I respectfully ask you to consider longer term contacts with insurance providers to mitigate against disruptions year after year.

The UW System Administration Human Resources Department and the UW-Parkside Human Resources Department are keeping track of questions, concerns, and lessons learned as we navigate these changes for 2018. I will share our notes with Lisa Ellinger and her team following the open enrollment period. Please feel free to contact me at ford@uwp.edu or 262-595-2211 if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Debbie Ford
Chancellor

Cc:
Sheronda Glass
Shenita Brokenburr
Lisa Ellinger



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