



October 18, 2017

Group Insurance Board, Mr. Michael Farrell, Chair  
Wisconsin Department of Employee Trust Funds  
P.O. Box 7931  
Madison, WI 53707-7931

The Faculty of UW-Parkside wish to voice our discontent concerning the ongoing instability in our health insurance options. In Racine and Kenosha Counties not a single insurance provider from 2017 is continuing to provide state employee plans in 2018. For our campus this means that over 300 employees must choose a new insurance provider. For some of us, this is the second or even third time we have been forced to change insurance companies in the last three years.

For affected individuals, the changes have led to numerous questions. For example:

- Do I have to change my primary care physician?
- Do any of the options cover both my physician and my children's pediatrician?
- Which specialty clinics are in each plan?
- I have a serious medical condition that needs ongoing treatment. Will I be able to continue the care I have been receiving?
- My child is attending college out of state. Will my health insurance cover her/his physician visits there?

At UW-Parkside, Chancellor Ford and HR Director Sheronda Glass have championed efforts to provide our campus with up-to-date information. They organized a series of sessions that allowed many of us to meet with representatives of ETF and health insurance providers. While many of our questions were answered, some areas remain murky. For example, we were told repeatedly that the insurance companies are still in the process of negotiating contracts with regional hospitals and clinics. However, open enrollment is this month, and we are being asked to make decisions without complete information.

We realize, of course, that both national and state politicians have contributed to the instability in the insurance market, and thus, some aspects of this situation are beyond your control. However, the situation is serious enough where we feel more aggressive leadership is needed from the Group Insurance Board (GIB). We look forward to the GIB leading the way to stabilize our health insurance programs into the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stuart Hansen".

The UW-Parkside Faculty, Stuart Hansen, University Committee Chair