

Insurance Committee Final Meeting
April 17, 2006

In attendance: Jackie Ryberg, Lyn Ames, Quentin Ford, Joy Watkins, Lori McKee, Tina Byford, Denise Welsh, Janet May and Bill Platz

The meeting, held at the Employee Health Center conference room, was called to order at 3:35pm by Tina Byford, Chair.

Minutes of the March 14th 2006 meeting were approved: motion to approve by Lyn Ames, seconded by Quentin Ford.

Janet May announced the approval by the Board of Regents to change all current NMSU employees to the State of NM Health Plan. She provided a list of Open Enrollment meetings for Dental and Medical insurance presentations by all providers: BCBS, Delta, Presbyterian and Cigna. The health plan change over will occur on Sept. 1, 2006. The current flexible spending account will stay in effect until December 2006 and then change to the state plan in January 2007. All employees will have to re enroll in the new flexible spending account plan as well as the dental and health plans. NMSU will follow all of the states plan guidelines except the eligibility.

Janet and Lori discussed the plan for Employee Health to switch to a co-pay system effect Sept. 1st. The co-pay rates have not yet been determined for employees on the health plan, not on the health plan and retirees.

Janet was pleased to announce increases were not as high as expected for retirees. Memos will go out the end of April to retirees.

Janet also talked about the e-mails concerning insurance changes which included misquotes and misinformation. All concerns have been responded to. A web site will be launch with all new insurance information soon.

Delta Dental wants an 8% increase for the 2 months between plans. NMSU will cover the cost for all employees.

NMSU may continue a contract with Mercer for consultation on the retiree health plan.

Tina stated Tammy Anthony wants a recommendation as to whether we (the insurance committee) want to continue to meet or not since NMSU will not be able to have any input to the States health plans. The committee original purpose was more focused with folks who were not happy with plan coverage's, billing, etc and carried these to ACAP. Once BCBS took over employee complaints dropped considerably and the committees focus changed to plan changes, costs and keeping increases down.

Lyn Ames recommended a retiree insurance committee be formed with at least 4 or 5 retirees, some under as well as over 65 years of age. They should meet 2 or 3 times a year. Quentin suggested an ad hoc committee; Janet suggested active employees should also be included. A motion was made to recommend to ACAP a new insurance committee with 4 or 5 retirees, 2 active employees including a representative from Employee Health and Employee Benefits act as ex-officio. Lyn moved for 5 retirees, 2 active employees and one retiree is Pioneers President and keep ex-officio. Quentin seconds.

Tina will go to May ACAP meeting with this recommendation.

Meeting was officially ended at 4:30pm