CEA Board Meeting Minutes
TSC Room 225B
September 3, 2009

Conducting Meeting –President Craig Miller

In attendance: Craig Miller, Jennifer Barton, Tracy Jones, Deb Megill, Heidi Harris, Kevin Johnson, Maren Seamons, Jill Ballard

Excused: Taci Watterson

1. Approval of Minutes:

Review of June 2009 meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Heidi Harris, Jennifer Barton seconded.

Review of August 2009 meeting minutes. Motion to approve by Kevin Johnson, Deb Megill seconded.

2. Committee Reports & Assignments

Salary & Benefits – Kevin Johnson

Deb attended the Employee Benefits committee meeting (formerly EBAB), which has now changed from a “board” to a “committee.” A committee can only advise, but does not vote. As a university, we are no longer bound to Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS); we could do a search for another carrier if the university wanted, but we are currently staying with BCBS. There will be a push to have employees switch from the blue plan to the white plan. There have been approximately 12% increases in medical costs, 4.5% increases in prescription, and 7% increases in dental. Big claims are the problem.

The Wellness Program is a big part of making healthier employees so that we can keep costs down. One problem with this is that classified employees don’t get support to take time to go work out, because there’s no oversight to see that employees are actually going. There is a problem with accountability. It was agreed that we need to pursue this with the Wellness program. A suggestion was made that classified employees be given at least 2 hours per week, on a privilege-base; if an employee was found cheating, the privilege would be suspended. One department had a trial a few years ago where they were given 30 extra minutes at lunch to exercise. If you didn’t, you just took your regular hour.

Supplemental Health insurance is on the table to go to bid. The cost for this would be out of pocket. Retirement Health Care was made available last year which is strictly for medical benefits when you retire; it can’t be used for anything else.

Flu shots are coming out earlier this year (Sept. 14th). The H1N1 vaccine is a 2-part shot: the first one will be available Nov. 2nd, and the second around Nov. 28th. H1N1 should be free from the state, but we’re not certain if that’s for families also.
November 19th is the next Employee Benefits meeting, and Deb and Craig will attend Kevin will serve as a substitute when needed.

_Employee Relations – Heidi Harris_

Heidi lost her only committee member. The committee is currently pursuing two items: 1) developing a wellness option for Classified employees, and 2) developing a way for classified employees to be able to evaluate their supervisors.

_Employee Enhancement – Currently no chair for this committee._

We are still in need of a chair for this committee. Nicki Godfrey (Women’s Resource Center) was mentioned as a possibility. Craig will approach her to see if she will agree. Cara Allen (AggieCare Director) is also interested in serving on the CEA and could serve wherever needed.

Maren suggested that the new Travel Authorization training could be done as a brown-bag lunch. Christopherson Travel could also present and give helpful tips.

_Scholarships – Jill Ballard_

Regarding the scholarship recipient question we discussed last month, Jill checked with the scholarship office to see if there was a problem with paying the whole scholarship up front. That decision is up to the CEA board, and we already approved this at the last meeting.

There was no time to work on the dollar drive this past month.

Individuals can check with the development office to verify what they are giving and where it’s going to. Jill will check with them to see about how people can easily enlarge their contributions.

_Media & Public Relations – Jennifer Barton_

The fall newsletter is at the printer, and the next one will be out in December.

_Employee Recognition – Taci Watterson – not present_

3. **Other**

Karen was unable to attend to report on UHESA. She was voted in as secretary of UHESA.

Maren will be working on developing a budget for the CEA, which will be ready for review at the next meeting.

Several board members would like to switch the date that the CEA meeting is held each month, from the first Thursday. The CEA meetings will now be held on the third Thursday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in TSC 225B

Jill motioned to adjourn, Heidi seconded.

Meeting was adjourned.
Next Meeting will be October 15, 2009