

Good afternoon, colleagues:

As your newly elected President, I was pleased to attend the Board of Regents meeting this past Wednesday, November 18 on behalf of the USGSC. I've summarized some items below that are of special interest to the USGSC.

Items of note from the Personnel and Benefits Committee:

In attendance were Regent Wanda Rodwell (Chair), Vice Chancellor Wayne Guthrie (Human Resources), Assoc. Vice Chancellor Tom Scheer (Life and Health Benefits), five other Regent members of the Committee and guests (including me).

- The main agenda item for the meeting was a presentation by Assoc. Vice Chancellor Scheer about the current and future status of health benefit plans.
- Assoc. VC Scheer provided an update on the open enrollment process for the USG's 40,000 employees and retirees and recapped changes for the 2010 benefit offerings. He reminded the group that this is the first fully online open enrollment process. Special attention is being given to retirees to help them with the process.
- Special promotion is being given to the High Deductible Health Plan, with a one-time seed of \$750 going to each employee's health savings account if they elect this plan.
- A Committee member asked if there has been much resistance to the elimination of the indemnity health plan, and Assoc. VC Scheer responded that there has not been much negative feedback at all.
- Assoc. VC Scheer discussed the expansion of the Total Rewards Steering Committee and informed the Board that the Steering Committee would be providing formal presentations of their progress in March and May.
- Assoc. VC Scheer informed the committee that the transition to ADP has been going well.
- The Committee was informed that the USG will be conducting a "dependent eligibility audit" to determine if there are fraudulent claims for coverage.
- Assoc. VC Scheer assured me that ADP anticipates a smooth open enrollment process, in spite of the large number of employees who had yet to enroll as of November 17.
- Next areas for consideration as Shared Services are: accounts payable, procurement, and financial aid. Final determination will be made in consultation with the Presidents of the USG institutions.

Items of note from the Full Board meeting:

- Chancellor Davis reported that total Fall 2009 enrollment at USG institutions is 301,892, which represents a 6.7% increase from Fall '08 and a 16% increase since Fall '06.
- Chancellor Davis reminded the Board that full formula funding ended three years ago, which means that 30,000 students in the USG are not covered by this funding.
- During the Budget and Finance Committee meeting on November 17, the Regents approved an 8% budget cut and will double a mandatory student fee from \$100 to \$200 per semester. The additional fee is expected to generate \$24 million in 2010.

Please note that these are merely my own impressions of the meetings and more thorough information can be found once the official minutes are posted to the BOR website www.usg.edu/regents/.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

-Pierrette

Pierrette Maillet
President
University System of Georgia Staff Council
Southern Polytechnic State University
1100 S. Marietta Pkwy
Marietta, GA 30060
678-915-7702