



FACULTY SENATE AGENDA

Thursday, April 29, 2010 Taylor 306

3:15 PM: Refreshments/Social

- Sign in on Attendance Sheet

3:35 PM: Call to Order

- Approval of the Minutes
- Speaker's Report, Dr. Steve Garren
 - i. Brief Update on Resolutions
- Provost's Report, Dr. Doug Brown
 - i. Report
- Guest Speakers, Institute for Stewardship of the Natural World Committee
Drs. Jerry Benson, Linda Halpern, Jeanne Martino-McAllister, Heather Griscom, and Peter DeMichele
- Report of the Nominations and Elections Committee, Dr. Mary Slade (Chair)
 - i. Report-New Senate Officers
- Treasurer's Report, Dr. Robert Jerome
 - i. Report
- Report of the Faculty Concerns Committee, Dr. Arch Harris (Chair)
 - i. No Report
- Report of the Academic Policies Committee, Dr. Val Larsen (Chair)
 - i. No Report
- Report of the Budget Committee, Dr. Nancy Poe (Chair)
 - i. No Report
- Report of the Faculty Appeals Committee, Dr. Rory DePaolis (Chair)
 - i. No Report
- Report of the Student Relations Committee, Dr. Jeff Andre (Chair)
 - i. No Report
- OLD Business
- NEW Business
 - i. Medical Claims Denials (See page 2)
 - ii. Spring Fest Response:

Dear Senate Speaker, I move that the faculty senate discuss the adequacy of JMU's recent responses to the events surrounding Spring Fest and consider participating in other, more concrete responses to those events. The responses--like President Rose's initial note to students and his recent *Breeze* editorial--have been sincere and inspiring. However, they do very little to match the University's high-minded rhetoric with specific, concrete deeds that would demonstrate our University's unwavering commitment to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of the Harrisonburg community at large. Such a commitment could be demonstrated through community service. If, for example, each JMU student and faculty member would be willing to commit several hours of community service to the Harrisonburg community, that would send a signal--to Harrisonburg and the nation--that we are, indeed, a community that, as a whole, takes responsibility for its members' actions through specific forms of service to the city.

Respectfully, Michael Moghtader
Senate Representative, School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication

Medical Claims Denials

4/19/2010

Yohna Chambers, Director of Human Resources

Cc: Wanda Layman, Human Resources

Cc: Steve Garren, Chairman of Faculty Senate, Department of Mathematics

We are all aware that Anthem has recently announced significant premium rate increases in some areas, and Anthem CovaCare in Virginia may also soon be targeted. You are not aware, however, that Anthem has also significantly increased the number of denials of claims for insurance coverage. Insurance claim denials are part of the cost cutting measures secretly and aggressively being used by Anthem in conjunction with the overt premium increases. In short, our medical insurance coverage by Anthem CovaCare and Medco are not certain protection against catastrophic medical costs.

Although the recent premium rate increases were announced publically by Anthem (by law), the denial of coverage for drugs, biologicals, chemotherapies, or medical procedures are not announced except to the individuals being denied. Most individuals do not talk publically about their illness (i.e. cancer) or their financial liabilities because of social and personal reasons. Furthermore, there appears to be little or no oversight by JMU Human Resources or by the Virginia Department of Human Resources Management in tracking the number of claim denials of their employees, so there is little data on the number of JMU employees that are being denied claims by Anthem. This situation is dangerous because of its stealth and the threat it presents for unforeseen catastrophic medical costs to the JMU employees. Employees can be picked off individually and silently by Anthem without any awareness to the group of what is happening. Although denied claims can be appealed at the 3rd or 4th level to the Virginia Human Resources Management, most patients give up after the first level of denial and pay for costs themselves or forgo treatment.

The Obama Health Care bill does not regulate the denial of claims by the insurer. Denials will continue to be used by Anthem to cut costs. We request that JMU Human Resources with the help of the faculty senate begin tracking the number denials of medical claims of its employees. We realize that JMU does not need to do this (nor is it prohibited from doing this), but doing so would benefit employees. The information could be easily gathered by a questionnaire once a year, and **the employee would not be identified to protect his/her privacy**. Only denied claims need be reported, so the number would be small. This information would help us provide better assessment of our Anthem CovaCare/Medco insurance.

Sincerely,

Roddy Amenta
Department of Geology
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