Minutes of the Retiree Benefits Committee Meeting of 3/2/11

The committee met from 11:30 am until 12:40 pm in conference room 850C of the Mission and Values suite at 55 E. Jackson. Members who attended were: Kay Dabrowski, Jerry Goldman, Phil Kemp, Jeanne LaDuke, and Jackie Price. Guests present were Rosa Perez, Associate VP for Compensation & Benefits and Diana Chin, Manager, Compensation & Benefits.

Phil brought up discussion of whether the University might be interested in funding or subsidizing membership for retirees in “Silver Sneakers”, an exercise and physical maintenance program for seniors. During the discussion it was pointed out that the Ray Meyer Health Program offers similar facilities and opportunities, as well as a DePaul connection. Rosa offered to develop information about this. In any case, it was suggested that exercise facilities for seniors was a good topic for DES newsletter inclusion.

Jackie introduced discussion of cost details for mail order prescription drug expense under BCBSIL plan coverage. Retirees in this DePaul plan pay the same prices for drugs as active employee members. Certain details have an impact upon cost, such as whether the prescribing physician indicates “do not substitute”, or not, when a brand drug is ordered. Thus the issue of consumer due diligence in minimizing expense arose and Rosa said that she'd be willing to do a short presentation for retirees concerning this. Diana distributed a sheet (copy appended) with some detailed examples of costs relating to price differences in brand versus generic drugs. Again, this could be material for newsletter inclusion.

Finally, the question of whether DePaul medical plans covered Second Domiciled Adults (SDAs) as family members of an insured was introduced. Rosa said that if the SDA was covered at the time of retirement, then this SDA would be covered under the retiree plan until he or she became Medicare eligible. An insured cannot add a previously uninsured SDA after retirement. A quick observation was made that there is no international, or in some cases, out of state medical coverage for retirees enrolled in the BCBSIL HMO.

The Committee is indebted to both Rosa and Diana for their patience and careful preparation for this meeting. Moreover, we all thank Alice Farrell for having arranged the room and the lunch, and Mission & Values for including it.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Goldman, Chair