Minutes of the Retiree Benefits Committee Meeting of 10/25/12

The committee met from 12:00 noon until 1:30 pm in conference room 850C of the Mission and Values suite at 55 E. Jackson. Members who attended were: Doris Brown, Jeanne LaDuke, Jerry Goldman, and Jackie Price. Rosa Perez, Associate VP for Compensation & Benefits attended as a resource person and guest. Flash drives prepared by Diana Chin at Rosa’s behest were given to committee members. These drives were also previously distributed to DES luncheon attendees and stored files with information about various wellness topics together with BCBSIL benefit computation examples for services rendered by Medicare opt-out or out of network providers. Unfortunately, they didn’t contain a copy of the DePaul SPD, so retirees who hunger for detail will have to obtain it separately.

The principal subject of discussion was the 2012-2013 action plan for the committee distributed by Denny Shea at the October 19th DES luncheon. Each of the four bulleted items was discussed.

As a first step in informing retirees about benefits offered by the University, including health care plus all others, we first discussed the creation of a comprehensive list. During discussion it became apparent that there were a large number of items that could prove useful to retirees. Rosa kindly offered the services of HR to begin development of this list during the first quarter of next year. Per the third of the bulleted action items, contact telephone numbers that may be used by those with individual questions will be incorporated into this list.

Members thought that communicating benefits information via a column in the DES newsletter was a good idea. Happily, Rosa expressed interest in collaborating with Jerry on such a column for the DES newsletter, and Jerry will follow-up.

Insofar as DES members who obtain medical services from non-Medicare or out of network providers now know what to expect after looking at the BCBSIL examples of claims payouts, it seemed that no further action could now be recommended by the committee. There is plainly an economic price to be paid that members will take into account.

Rosa thought the idea of BCBSIL identifying an ombudsman for DePaul retirees over and above the customer service reps available would probably be nixed because of cost considerations. The committee did not further pursue this.

The Committee is indebted to Rosa for her willingness to engage the resources of HR to help retirees. 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