

President Curran Appoints Healthcare Taskforce

In order to help control healthcare costs for both the University and employees, President Daniel J. Curran has appointed a broad-based taskforce of faculty and staff to study the University's current plan and make recommendations for the next few years.

"Healthcare is one of the most important and highly valued benefits the University offers employees," Curran said in a message announcing the effort.

"With so many changes to healthcare driven both by the Affordable Care Act and a landscape that includes continually rising costs for both healthcare and prescription drugs, it is a good time to review our plan and develop a new multi-year strategy that takes these changes into account," he said.

The goal is to have a sustainable health care plan that will better control costs both for employees and the University, while maintaining quality healthcare benefits that help us attract and retain talent.

The taskforce includes faculty and staff at different organizational levels and will benchmark the University's plan against national, higher education and peer institution standards.

The taskforce will study the current plan, consider alternatives and make recommendations for possible changes, which likely will be phased in over a multi-year period starting in 2017. Mercer, an internationally recognized consulting firm with expertise in healthcare plan analysis and design, will be assisting the group.

In the past year, several successful initiatives contributed toward helping the University and employees counter the rising cost of healthcare. The University negotiated minimal administrative fee increases from Anthem, kept premium increases below the national average, increased incentives for reduced premiums, expanded wellness program offerings and introduced lower-cost service options, such as LiveHealth online.

Troy Washington, vice president for human resources, and Corinne Daparno, chair of the Department of Health and Sport Science, are serving as co-chairs and expect to have recommendations before the end of spring semester.