

ULARP REPORT TO FACULTY SENATE 6 5 24

5 June 2024

Elaine Wise, ULARP Representative

At its 21 May 2024 meeting, Brian Buford reported that The Employee Success Center (Brian has served as our liaison with the Office of the President as Director), has been moved to Human Resources. He will continue to meet with us, however, in his new capacity. We are grateful.

ULARP's Annual Business Meeting and Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, July 30 from 11:30 am to 1 pm at the University Club, with President Schatzel as guest speaker and sponsor. The next ULARP Newsletter, edited by Dale Billingsley, will go to press on July 15.

A Care Giver Self Care Seminar will be held at the Club on June 15, from 11 am to noon. Barbara Gordon from the Trager Institute Optimal Aging Clinic will lead the discussion. If you are caring for someone over 60 or someone with dementia, you may profit from attending this seminar that focuses on ways to avoid burnout by identifying and managing symptoms of caregiver stress.

Based on an earlier concern raised by Dale Billingsley, Elaine Wise, and Brenda Gunn will assist him in a review of the ULARP Constitution for possible clarifications and revisions.

While ULARP offers programs of interest to retirees and future retirees and continues to serve as the advocate for the best interests of retired personnel of the University, we sometimes lack significant representation in decision making that has impact on retiree benefits and wellbeing.

On 30 May, current retirees received a letter in the mail concerning dental, vision and life insurance policies. It is an "update," noting that, for dental and vision policies, direct billing will transition from Optum to MetLife/GIS effective 7/1/2024. Payments will now be made to GIS, a direct bill system. Open Enrollment will be done online through MetLife/GIS. On or after June 10, retirees must log into their accounts to review elections and set up ACH information for monthly premiums. *HRTalks* transition sessions are scheduled online for June 5 and 6, or retirees can request a recording. The letter also provides instructions for reviewing and updating life insurance beneficiaries, at a different *url* and via a different process. The processes are somewhat complicated, and we regret that a ULARP representative was not involved in the planning and discussion of the letter sent to current retirees.

ITS did invite Sande Johnson-Byers and Dale Billingsley to a Teams meeting with Sara Northerner and Bob Water on May 31. Duo or two-factor authentication is being added to more U OF L systems, including Blackboard and Office 365 this summer. This will require a second authentication method to access Office 365. Duo licenses have already been purchased for retirees who have access to Office 365. While the set-up may be a minor inconvenience, this seems to be a positive change. ULARP was included early enough to provide helpful input into the communication, documentation, and training processes, which will include direct email to those retirees with Office 365 accounts, online documentation and training videos and in-person enrollment sessions. Communication is expected to start in mid-June, with in-person training at the end of June.

Happy Summer! Elaine