

Employee Benefits Committee Monthly Meeting
August 26, 2021
2:00 p.m.
Zoom Videoconference

Attendees: LaTawnya Burleson, Marie Bliss, Sara Leftwich, Patrick Pithua, Richard Ashley, Jennifer Earley, and Brittany May

Absent: Pat Donovan (with notice), Leisa Shelor, Richard Shryock, Rachel Miles, and Pamela Stell

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Employee Benefits Committee was called to order at 2:01 p.m. on August 26, 2021 by Chair LaTawnya Burleson

Introductions:

Because this was the first meeting of this academic year, brief introductions were provided. LaTawnya expressed appreciation for her role and the participation of the committee members, and several members expressed appreciation for LaTawnya's leadership.

Discussion:

The first meetings will be devoted to establishing goals/objectives for the committee to accomplish this year. A brief overview of what the committee focused on last year was given by LaTawnya, namely the Road to Retirement project. In previous years, tuition and leave benefits were also researched and considered.

LaTawnya asked the committee for suggestions for this year. Suggestions included:

- Flexible/remote work concerns/resources (Brittany)
- Reopening schools and related childcare concerns, testing/vaccination, masking requirements and related issues (Rick)
- Wellness benefits for employees (LaTawnya)
- Creating a survey to solicit suggestions from employees; could be sent out via link in VT News (Brittany)

Sara and Marie shared that some of these topics are part of HR initiatives in-progress. Additionally, LaTawnya mentioned that some benefits cannot be changed at the university level as they are bound by state policies.

Agenda for Next Meeting:

LaTawnya encouraged the committee to review past meeting minutes on the SharePoint site and consider possible topics for next month's meeting. Rick suggested considering the pros and cons of current benefits to identify possible topic areas, and Sara suggested taking a look at benefits offered by peer institutions.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m. by Chair LaTawnya Burleson. The next general meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on September 23, 2021.