



OHIO UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Cutler Hall
Athens OH 45701-2979

T: 740.593.2600
F: 740.593.9591

December 31, 2007

To: Sergio Lopez-Permouth, Chair, Faculty Senate

From: Kathy A. Krendl, Executive Vice President and Provost

Subject: Response to Faculty Senate Resolution on University Standing
Committee on Benefits

The current Health Benefits Advisory Committee has been functioning effectively for the past several years with fair and balanced representation from all employee groups. Working in collaboration with Human Resources, the Committee has provided valuable advice and counsel regarding the appropriate balance between investments in health care benefits and investments in other components of employee compensation such as salary. One illustration of the committee's recent accomplishments was its careful evaluation of the competitive nature of Ohio University's health care benefits package compared to that of other institutions. The work done by the committee on this issue has helped to guide decision-making and planning for all employees.

Recent experience suggests that retaining the current ad hoc advisory committee appears to be an effective solution to helping all employee groups remain informed and involved. This approach provides the opportunity to revise the group's charge and responsibilities as the landscape of health care continues to evolve. It also maintains a strong sense of ownership by all groups who have a stake in our current employee health benefits.

Because we currently have an effective, equitable, and flexible means of addressing important issues relating to key employee benefits, I am declining to sign the resolution to establish a standing committee on benefits.