

How to voice your concerns regarding UC health care changes

January 26, 2015

This letter is being sent to SCFA members, but please feel free to forward it to all systemwide UC employees.

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Links

SCFA Website:
www.ucscfa.org

[UC Faculty Ask President Napolitano to Stop Deterioration of Health Care Insurance January 15 ,2015](#)

[Letter to UC regarding health care plan changes - 1/12/15](#)

[Letter from Dwaine Duckett, UCOP VP of Human Resources](#)

[Letter from UCSB Faculty Association to President Napolitano](#)

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Dear Colleagues,

Thanks to everyone who has signed SCFA's online Health Care petition regarding the contract struggle between Blue Shield and Sutter Health. The petition urges UC President Napolitano and UCOP to exert all possible pressure on the parties to reach an agreement, so that UC employees--staff and faculty--are not left without viable health insurance if and when the current contract extension expires at the end of June. More than a thousand people have signed the petition, which we will soon send to President Napolitano. We will, however, keep the petition open on our website for anyone who might wish to sign but has not yet done so.

There are several other ways you can make your voice heard on this issue.

Prior to launching the petition, co-sponsored by SCFA and UC-AFT, we sent a [letter to President Napolitano](#) (sent to you in a previous mailing). You can find that letter, and the less than satisfactory response received from [Dwaine Duckett](#), UCOP Vice President of Human Resources on the SCFA web site. Also posted there is a [letter from UCSB Faculty Association](#) regarding the connection between the situations of UCSB, UCB, and UCSC in relation to Blue Shields / UC Care. We encourage you to write to [Mr. Duckett](#) to express your concern; please be sure to cc. to [President Napolitano](#).

Let us hope they do not wait on this until the last minute. On the UCOP website, you can find two pages (listed below) about the Blue Shield-Sutter contract struggle. The first page is a "clarification," which does not add very much to what we already know. The second is a list of "Frequently Asked Questions," which does not add very much either, but spells out that we are already having to pay higher health costs as a result of the contract problem. We encourage you to read the rather obfuscatory language regarding these higher costs.

Despite this UCOP's position is that "There is no need for employees or retirees to make changes at this time; therefore the University is not authorizing a special opportunity for employees and retirees to change medical plans at this time." Let us hope they do not wait on this until the last minute.

The two pages also have comment tools of which you might wish to take advantage, perhaps mentioning the petition. (Unfortunately, the comments tool requires that you register with the site, which some may not wish to do.)

<http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2015/01/uc-human-resources-clarifies-effect-of-sutter-blue-shield-contract-on-uc-medical-plans.html>

<http://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2015/01/blue-shield-sutter-frequently-asked-questions.html>

We believe strongly that the University has a moral obligation to ensure that UC staff and faculty have reliable and continued health care and that, in the future, it consider very carefully the implications of contracting with health insurance companies such as Blue Shield before making commitments on our behalf. We hope that, via the online petition, our letters and the comments tool on the UC websites, President Napolitano, UCOP and the Board of Regents will take seriously our concerns and see that this situation is resolved satisfactorily and does not happen again in the future.

SCFA Executive Board