

The Benefits Advisory Committee
Report to the University Senate
By Jerry Daday

The Benefits Advisory Committee met on Monday, September 17. We also had two meetings over the summer months. I will try to summarize developments in all of these meetings in the following report.

The Benefits Committee recommended and the President approved an increase in some preventative services for our health plan. The preventative services to be covered under our health plan effective 1-1-2013 with no cost to members:

- well-woman visits
- screening for gestational diabetes
- human papillomavirus (HPV) DNA testing for women 30 years and older
- sexually-transmitted infection counseling
- human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) screening and counseling
- FDA-approved contraception methods and contraceptive counseling
- breastfeeding support, supplies, and counseling
- domestic violence screening and counseling

Open enrollment materials for the 2013 plan year are currently being finalized, and as usual, employees should receive this material sometime in the next several weeks.

As President Ransdell noted in his convocation address, the university has implemented a wellness program for all employees under the direction of Wade Pinkard, Manager of Employee Wellness. Beginning in calendar 2013, we have contracted with a wellness vendor which will provide a system infrastructure for health assessments, health education, lifestyle management, disease management, tools for self-tracking and incentive administration. Employees will be seeing more details on how this wellness program will be structured in the coming weeks. In addition to improvements in individual health status and general life quality, the hope and expectation is that this program will help to partially mitigate future health care cost increases for our self-insured health plan.

We heard a report at our September meeting from representatives at the WKU Foundation to discuss how our health care reserve account is being invested. This presentation was very informative. The WKU Foundation is saving or investing these funds in a very risk adverse manner – with a majority of the funds invested in CDs (certificates of deposit).

As always, I'd be happy to answer any questions you or the Senate may have.