

What Did The UCLA Faculty Association Do For Me In 2003-2004?

FALL, 2003

DISABILITY INSURANCE: Who needs it?

The FA at UCLA published a newsletter on the subject of disability insurance when it came to our attention that many faculty were paying disability insurance that they probably would never need. On the one hand, once a faculty member has 28 or more years of service credit and is 60 or older, then the retirement benefit exceeds any disability payment. In all likelihood, faculty who become seriously disabled will retire. On the other hand, younger faculty, with lower service credit, would be wise to carry disability insurance in case of serious and prolonged injury and inability to work. www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/disability.htm

WINTER, 2004

LOBBYING: FA Invited Rep. Henry Waxman, D, CA, District #30,

The UCLA Faculty Association invited Rep. Henry Waxman, of the 30th District, to a luncheon meeting to speak to FA members and faculty on Jan. 23, 2004. Waxman spoke about a wide range of topics, from healthcare to prescription drug coverage. Several questions focused on universal health coverage, a concept that Waxman supports. He said that the US is the only developed country in the world not to offer universal health care coverage. Health care costs are higher in the US, but the costs of delivery are also higher and less efficient. In the early 90s people opposed universal health care coverage because they might not be able to choose their own doctor. A few years later managed care resulted in many people being unable to choose their own doctor, but by then, the dialogue had changed, and it did not matter as much. www.uclafaculty.org/LOBBYING/Waxman.htm

UCLA BUDGET ISSUES: Graduate Student Funding and U. of Mich. Funding Model

The UCLA FA invited faculty to a Town Hall meeting on the budget crisis on Jan. 30, 2004. Professor MacDonald from the Geography Department wrote a letter to the Chancellor from the Chairs of several UCLA Departments addressing the crisis in funding for graduate students. www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/UCLAChairs.htm The Chairs' letter discussed the ways the U. of Michigan has compensated for lower state support for higher education. Dwight Read, the Chair of the UCLA FA, wrote an answer to the Chairs' letter. In this analysis, Read discussed some of the reasons UCLA decided not to follow a governance structure similar to the U. of Mich. In the 1990's several public universities (U. of Mich., Indiana U., USC, U of Minn.) adopted Responsibility Centered Management (RCM), but UCLA rejected this model, largely on the grounds of inappropriate premises (academic units are not autonomous revenue generating units and the campus budget is a zero-sum game) and a growing realization that any kind of "bottom line" budgeting fails to take into account the complexity of an academic enterprise that ranges from extensive "common good" activities to funding of academic areas by virtue of a value judgment placed on their role in the core mission of teaching and research. www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/ReadLet.htm

SPRING, 2004

HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS AT UCLA: The Real Story

The FA published a newsletter in May 2004 that analyzed the cost shifting in healthcare premiums that has taken place according to income level: more highly paid faculty pay more for the same healthcare insurance as lower paid employees. This cost shift has not resulted in cost savings for UC for employee health insurance partly because of the skyrocketing costs of prescription drug coverage. Retired faculty should carefully monitor UC's continuing commitment to contribute to their health insurance, which supplements Medicare for many faculty, because UC is not required by law to fund annuitant health insurance. www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/health_care.htm

RETIREMENT: UC Investment Returns Dip and the Public Wants to Know Why

In the May 2004 newsletter the FA examined some of the issues facing UCRP, particularly the possibility of faculty needing to contribute to UCRP within the next 5 years. It is also unlikely that there will be a VERIP 4 in the next 5 years to help solve the current budget crisis because of the current funding status of UCRP. The FA presented information about the lawsuit successfully brought against UC for failure to disclose the minutes of private meetings between the Regents and Treasurer concerning the UCRP assets. The UC Treasurer contacted the UCLA FA to discuss the findings of this article and the way UC presents financial information on the website. www.uclafaculty.org/Newsletters/retirementUC.htm

