

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
Student Insurance Advisory Committee
 MINUTES
 January 11, 2023

The January 11, 2023, meeting of the Student Insurance Advisory Committee (SIAC) was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

Members Participating by Video Conference Call:

Diana Kuhlmann, ESU COBO rep, Chair	Matt Anderson, KUMC
Aaron Coffey, WSU	Hollie Hall, KU student
Mary McDaniel-Anschutz, ESU	Carol Solko-Oliff, FHSU
Madi Vannaman, KBOR	

Also participating were Matt Brinson, UHC-SR; Jennifer Dahlquist, MHEC; and Julene Miller, John Yeary and Gage Rohlf, KBOR. Morgan Swartzlander, KU; Kiera Pulliam, PSU, and Fabiana Salas, KU student, were not able to attend. Jennifer Williams, KSU, was not able to attend, and Sharon Maike attended in her place.

Plan Renewal for Plan Year 23-24

At the December 15, 2022, meeting, the SIAC reviewed UHC-SR’s two alternative renewal proposals for Plan Year 23-24.

The SIAC unanimously recommended renewal option #2:

- a. keeping Plan Option 1, but requested additional premium information related to various benefit changes and
- b. the 6.5% increase for Plan Options 2, 3 and 4 with no benefit changes.

The SIAC expressed concerns about eliminating Plan Option 1 because there are graduate students who do not qualify for the subsidized Plan Option 3, and Medicaid is not available in Kansas. Research performed by the KU Medical Center sub-committee showed that though the KBOR student insurance premiums continue to increase, they are lower than those in the surrounding states (Nebraska, Missouri and Oklahoma). Although a comparable Gold Standard plan through the Federal Exchange would be approximately \$5342/year, the deductible and out of pocket maximums are larger. Students who utilize their university’s Student Health Center will have deductibles and copayments waived for certain services including physician’s visits.

The latest UHC-SR report shows that of the 172 students enrolled in Plan Option 1, in the current Plan Year 22-23, 36 are at KSU and 86 are at KU. The SIAC requested additional information with benefit changes for Option 1.

Initial UHC-SR renewal proposal for Option 1

Plan Options	PY 22-23	% increase	PY 23-24	\$ increase
Option 1	\$4998	14.05%	\$5700	\$702

Benefit changes considered for Option 1:

1. To change the Per Insured Person, Per Policy Deductible from ‘\$1,000 Preferred Provider/\$2,000 Out-of-Network Provider’ to ‘\$2,000 Preferred Provider/\$4,000 Out-of-Network Provider’ = **-\$179 to proposed 23-24 student rate. (\$5700 - \$179 = \$5521 or 10.46% increase, rather than 14.05%)**

2. To change the Per Insured Person, Per Policy Deductible from ‘\$1,000 Preferred Provider/\$2,000 Out-of-Network Provider’ to ‘\$2,500 Preferred Provider/\$5,000 Out-of-Network Provider’ = **-\$269 to proposed 23-24 student rate. (\$5700 - \$269 = \$5431 or 8.66% increase, rather than 14.05%)**
3. To change Coinsurance from ‘75% Preferred Provider/55% Out-of-Network Provider’ to 70% Preferred Provider/50% Out-of-Network Provider = **-\$44 to proposed 23-24 student rate. (\$5700 - \$44 = \$5656 or 13.17% increase, rather than 14.05%)**. *Please note this change does not apply to the Preferred Provider Physicians Visit benefit, the SHC benefits, and the Preferred Provider Rx benefit.
4. To Remove the \$200 Per Policy Year Prescription Drug Deductible from the Preferred Provider and Out-of-Network Provider Prescription Drug benefit and make Per Insured Person, Per Policy Year Deductible include Prescription Drugs = **-\$15 to proposed 23-24 student rate. (\$5700 - \$15 = \$5685 or \$13.75% increase, rather than 14.05%)**

SIAC members expressed the opinions that there were no good options presented. Each university shared what their sub-committees supported:

Aaron, WSU: although the options provided were appreciated, the savings for the first three benefit changes were not significant enough for the premium savings. WSU is mildly in support of benefit change 4.

Mary, ESU: her sub-committee had the exact opposite response. Increasing the deductible will require quite a bit of out-of-pocket dollars before the pharmacy benefit is available. For the “average” student, there are options for obtaining lower costs, such as using the student health center where the deductible is waived, and the prescription benefit is much better. The 14% increase is huge, and that would be more damaging to this population and will likely increase the adverse selection numbers. ESU did not have extraordinarily strong leanings, but preferred benefit changes 2, and 3.

Carol, FHSU: the health director reviewed this information also and they support leaving the prescription benefit the same, and are supportive of benefit changes 1 and 3, as students look at premium first before looking at the benefits provided.

Morgan, KU: was not present at the meeting but shared an email with the following information:

“In terms of my thoughts on the additional proposed changes to plan option 1, I don’t feel entirely qualified to make an informed vote. If I had to choose with the context I do have... I think the original offer UHC made is the best option. Here’s why:

- Regarding #4 below, the different in the % of increase (13.75 instead of 14.05) is not worth it enough to me to make this kind of a change that could have effects for a large population
- Additionally, my understanding is that the majority of the students in Plan 1 already have very high medical costs, so they are probably exhausting their deductible. I assume they would want to have the HIGHER percentage of costs paid by UHC for a medical bills and have it kick in earlier, eliminating bullet number 3 for me.
- Finally, for bullets 1 & 2 below, the difference in the proposed premium is much smaller than the additional deductible out of pocket before the coinsurance kicks in. Since many of these students do exhaust their deductible, I assume they’d rather have that 75% coinsurance kick in sooner.

So again, I would still vote for the original proposal of 14% increase.”

Hollie Hall, student representative: has the same perspective as Morgan. None of the options are good and do not result in much savings. Supportive of staying with the original 14% increase.

Sharon, KSU: supportive of increasing the deductible even though the premium savings is limited. The average student looks at the premium and, if it is too high, will not purchase the insurance. Supportive of benefit changes 1 and 3, but not supportive of 4.

Matt, KUMC: the subcommittee wanted other universities to weigh in as KUMC only has 9 enrolled in Plan Option 1. If forced to pick, would be supportive of benefit change 2.

PSU – had no representative attending the meeting.

Matt Brinson was asked to provide information about the number of participants who have met the Plan Year deductible:

- for PY 21-22, 64 insured (unsure whether student or dependent) hit the policy deductible and,
- for PY 22-23, to date, 17 students (about 10% of enrollees) have hit the policy deductible (it is early in the Plan Year).

Because the university sub-committee recommendations were scattered, the benefit change options were reviewed individually to determine which options had majority support and, as a result, the final vote was whether to recommend UHC-SR's original renewal proposal for Plan Option 2 or benefit change option 2. The original renewal proposal received three votes from KU-L, WSU and the student representative; and benefit change option 2 received four votes from ESU, FHSU, KSU and KUMC.

The SIAC recommends the following proposal for PY 23-24:

1. Plan Options 2, 3, and 4: across the board 6.5% increase with no changes to benefits, resulting in an annual premium of \$2831, or a \$173 increase over the current Plan year.
2. Plan Option 1: accepting the benefit change 2, listed above, resulting in an annual premium of \$5431 or a \$433 (8.66%) increase over the current Plan year.

The SIAC's recommendation will be provided to the Council of Business Officers at a special meeting on January 12, 2023. Any recommendation then will be presented to the Council of Presidents on January 18th. The COPS' recommendation will be finalized and presented to the Governance Committee and then to the Board of Regents at their February meeting.

Future SIAC meetings

Future SIAC meetings tentatively scheduled for 12:30 (unless otherwise stated below):

- A. Wednesday, May 3, 2023
- B. Wednesday, September 6, 2023
- C. Wednesday, December 6, 2023