

January 5, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

Response to the Chancellor's message of December 18, 2008:

Point 2:

The statements in regard to the prescription plan proposed changes. The Chancellor stated that the District has offered to negotiate this and has provided all information requested by ACE.

Response:

ACE thanks the District for providing all of the information concerning the prescription proposal. ACE has shared this information with the faculty and received some questions and concerns regarding the proposed prescription change.

But the District did not come to the table to negotiate this matter. At the September 19 meeting there was about a five minute exchange on this topic; some questions were asked. The October 17 meeting was the only other time this topic was mentioned but not negotiated.

ACE was told that the District wanted an LOU that would remove the specific name of a carrier because they were going to replace it with a pharmacy benefit manager. If this change were made then the District would be able to change the carrier at any time as long as the benefits were the same and without negotiations; the District considered this a minor change. ACE thought that this was a major change to Article 14. Such a change needed to be carefully considered and the faculty given a chance to vote on this change. ACE did make an attempt to negotiate this matter on October 17 but was informed by the District's chief negotiator that Article 14 was not open and would not be opened.

The District's main goal was to close the 2005-2008 contract; they refused to consider side issues that involved other articles even if they might be important.

Respectfully submitted,
Susanna Pancella
ACE Secretary