

FACULTY AND ACADEMIC STAFF BENEFITS COMMITTEE  
CURRENT BENEFITS ISSUES & EVENTS  
(FINAL; INFORMATION)

**UNIVERSITY AD&D**

1. A reminder email was sent on 2/15/2012 to plan participants. It provided a link to the certificate of coverage, as well as to NESSIE for other plan information.
2. The rates for this coverage will decrease on 3/1/2012. An email notice will be sent to participants at the end of the month.

**HEALTH PLANS**

1. Coventry HMO (formerly PersonalCare HMO)/Christie termination 12/31/2011
  - a. An email reminder was sent on February 10<sup>th</sup> to employees with Coventry HMO coverage reminding them that if they had a Christie Clinic doctor as their PCP that the deadline for making a change was approaching. **Any changed must be made before midnight on February 29, 2012.**

**RETIREMENT PLANNING CONFERENCE (RPC)**

A half day Retirement Planning Conference will be presented on Sunday, April 1, 2012 at the Activities and Recreation Center (ARC) on the Urbana campus. Prior registration is required and will be available online at <http://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu/retirementseminar>. If you are considering or planning to retire within the next 1 to 5 years, you are invited to attend an afternoon of presentations that will cover such topics as (a) tasks to complete prior to retirement; (b) calculating benefits and explanation of formulas under the various SURS retirement plans; (c) how some public employee pensions may affect social security benefits (i.e., the effect of the government pension offset and windfall elimination provision laws); and (d) financial planning and strategies following retirement. The program will conclude with a presentation by the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA) on how you can protect your retirement benefits, as well as a discussion of pension reform by the Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA). See the above registration website for additional details as they become available.

This conference is offered through a partnership of the Academic and Staff Human Resources offices, University Human Resources and UPB-Benefits Services, and is sponsored by SUAA.

**PENSION**

1. A 2/13/2012 NESSIE announcement was added regarding the IGPA analysis of the current state of public pension systems in Illinois. This IGPA paper proposes a new hybrid plan for colleges and universities. IGPA Forum to be held March 5, Alice Campbell Alumni Center, 11:30 AM.
2. NESSIE 's Pension Reform Efforts and Legislation page has been updated, see [https://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu/cf/benefits/index.cfm?Item\\_ID=4534](https://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu/cf/benefits/index.cfm?Item_ID=4534) or the announcement on NESSIE's home page.

**PENSION BILLS PROPOSED**

1. HB3116 (Jefferson) compact on behalf of the State with any other state to end abuse of public pension programs. Provides that the compacting states shall agree that no governmental employer under the jurisdiction of any state shall pay wages or salary to any public pension fund annuitant unless that annuitant elects to suspend his or her pension for the duration of his or her employment. Sets out provisions of the compact concerning definitions, the effective date, and construction and severability.

2. HB3857 (Morthland) Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Amends various Articles of the Code to provide that participants under those Articles are only entitled to creditable service for periods of service with a labor organization if the employee and employer contributions for the service are received by the Fund before the effective date of the amendatory Act.
3. HB4996 (Biss) Amends the State Universities Article of the Illinois Pension Code. Provides that if an employer notifies the State Universities Retirement System that it has employed an annuitant for more than 100 paid days or 500 paid hours in a school year, then the System shall certify to the employer the current value of the annual retirement annuity of that annuitant. Provides that if an employer receives such a certification, then the employer shall pay the certified amount to the System within one year after receiving the certification. Amends the University of Illinois Act, Southern Illinois University Management Act, Chicago State University Law, Eastern Illinois University Law, Governors State University Law, Illinois State University Law, Northeastern Illinois University Law, Northern Illinois University Law, Western Illinois University Law, and Public Community College Act to make conforming changes.
4. Shell Bills:
  - a. HB4629 – Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning State universities. Is currently in Rules Committee.
  - b. HB5197 – Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning State universities. Is currently in Rules Committee.
  - c. HB1895 – Amends the Illinois Pension Code. Makes a technical change in a Section concerning definitions. Is currently in Rules Committee.
3. HJRCA0033 – Proposes to amend the General Provisions Article of the Illinois Constitution concerning pension and retirement rights. Makes a technical change only. Effective upon being declared adopted.

### **PENSION NEWS IN OTHER STATES**

#### Arizona

1. pension law ruled unconstitutional –  
<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/local/articles/2012/02/03/20120203arizona-pension-law-ruled-unconstitutional.html>
2. Judge Rules Pension Contribution Law Unconstitutional –  
[http://www.plansponsor.com/Arizona\\_Judge\\_Rules\\_Pension\\_Contribution\\_Law\\_Unconstitutional.aspx](http://www.plansponsor.com/Arizona_Judge_Rules_Pension_Contribution_Law_Unconstitutional.aspx)

#### New Hampshire

1. Court Says Increasing State Employee Pension Contributions Illegal –  
[http://www.plansponsor.com/NH\\_Court\\_Says\\_Increasing\\_State\\_Employee\\_Pension\\_Contributions\\_Illegal.aspx](http://www.plansponsor.com/NH_Court_Says_Increasing_State_Employee_Pension_Contributions_Illegal.aspx)

#### Michigan

1. Unions file lawsuit over contribution changes –  
[http://www.plansponsor.com/Mich\\_Unions\\_File\\_Lawsuit\\_Against\\_Changes\\_in\\_State\\_Retirement\\_Plans.aspx](http://www.plansponsor.com/Mich_Unions_File_Lawsuit_Against_Changes_in_State_Retirement_Plans.aspx)

#### Wisconsin

1. Proposed legislation allows DC plan for Univ. of Wisconsin employees –  
[http://www.plansponsor.com/Bill\\_Would\\_Offer\\_University\\_of\\_Wis\\_System\\_Employees\\_DC\\_Plan.aspx](http://www.plansponsor.com/Bill_Would_Offer_University_of_Wis_System_Employees_DC_Plan.aspx)

This document compiled by University Human Resources (UHR), contact Katie Ross in UHR at [katross@uillinois.edu](mailto:katross@uillinois.edu) with inquiries. Contact UPB-Benefits Services at 217-333-3111 for benefit plan questions specific to a faculty or staff member's own situation. Contact SURS at 217-378-8800. All other questions can be sent to [uihr@uillinois.edu](mailto:uihr@uillinois.edu)