

**ARTICLE 16 – BENEFITS**

- 16.1 The District shall maintain the benefits programs (in terms of service levels) in place as of January 1, 2001. These benefit programs include medical, dental, vision, long term care, life insurance and long-term disability. Any increases in costs to maintain the current level of service shall be borne by the District throughout the duration of the Agreement. The parties agree to work collaboratively to control future health care costs and consider plan changes that are necessary to control these costs. *[Signature]* *12/10/19*

Employees who currently have duplicate coverage from another non-District employer and have currently chosen to opt-out of District health coverage in exchange for a stipend of \$2,400 annually may continue to opt-out and receive this stipend (grandfathered). This opt-out provision is no longer provided to other employees of the District. This opt-out provision is also not provided to those employees who are currently grandfathered, but who later opt-in and accept the District's health coverage after 10/12/2016. All active employees otherwise not grandfathered by this article are required to participate in the medical plan.

- 16.2 Benefits for eligible faculty retirees and their spouses or domestic partners shall be provided (see Appendix J).
- 16.3 All faculty members shall be entitled to use the Wellness Center at the rate in effect for faculty on January 1, 2001.
- 16.4 The Employee Assistance Service for Education (EASE) program in place January 1, 2001 or the equivalent shall continue during the life of this Agreement.
- 16.5 The District shall continue to make available its voluntary Internal Revenue Code Section 125 Flexible Spending Plan, which allows employees to set aside part of their salary on a pre-tax basis to pay some dependent care expenses, some unreimbursed medical expenses, and some employee-paid medical insurance premiums.
- 16.6 The Benefits Committee will be convened monthly to review current benefits and utilization rates, explore options, and make recommendations to the District and the Palomar Faculty Federation for additions and changes to employee and retiree health and welfare benefits.

The parties will charge the ~~District Employee~~ Benefits Committee with the task of evaluating the medical plans offered by the District.

- 16.7 By participating in the Benefits Committee, the Federation does not waive any rights under the Educational Employment Relations Act to negotiate all matters within the scope of bargaining.
- 16.8 The District will promptly deliver to the Benefits Committee complete copies of all documents (including attachments and/or enclosures) received from the current insurance carrier(s) and benefit provider(s) regarding the health and welfare benefits for employees of the District.
- 16.9 Faculty membership in the Benefits Committee, to be selected by the PFF, shall include four (4) active faculty members and ~~one (1) retired faculty member.~~
- 16.10 For the 2019-20 FY, the District will contribute have no cap on their contribution to part-time faculty health benefits based on the number of participants who enrolled and qualified during the Fall 2019 Open Enrollment Period. If the number of enrollees increases in the Spring 2020 enrollment period, the District agrees to notify PFF before dropping or denying any qualifying members from receiving health insurance benefits. Each year the District shall allocate \$200,000 \$230,000 to fund the District's contribution to premium costs for part-time faculty health benefits. One-half of the amount shall be allocated to fall semester enrollee premiums, and one half of the amount allocated to spring semester enrollee premiums. If the District's portion of the premiums in any semester exceeds \$100,000 \$115,000, the enrollment to bring the District's premium contribution to \$100,000 \$115,000 shall be allocated in accordance with Section 16.10.5. If the semester premium costs for all participants are less than \$100,000 \$115,000, the remainder shall carry forward to the next semester. If annual premium costs for all participants are less than \$200,000 \$230,000, the remainder shall carry forward to the following fiscal year. The allocation of funds for part-time benefits will be reconsidered in annual reopeners, and the District agrees to notify PFF <sup>before</sup> in the event that any eligible part-time faculty member is either dropped from or denied health insurance benefits due to this cap. In the event there is a remaining amount or overage the amounts shall be balanced to determine if any monies remain. If so, then it shall be added to the 2019-20 allocation.

- 16.10.1 The health benefit coverage shall apply to the part-time faculty member only. There shall be no coverage provided for the spouses, family or dependents of part-time faculty members.
- 16.10.2 The health plan shall be an HMO group plan to be selected by mutual agreement of the District and the PFF
- 16.10.3 The District shall charge the employee portion of benefits payments, twenty ~~thirty~~ five percent (32.5%), through payroll

deduction in equal payments during each coverage period. In months when the employee is not on payroll, the employee contributions shall be deducted in full from the next paycheck. If the employee does not return to Palomar, the amount of the premium is due in full from the employee.

16.10.4 An eligible employee must be in good standing with respect to contribution payment, to remain eligible for benefits in subsequent enrollment periods.

16.10.5 The District shall pay seventy-five percent (765%) and a participating part-time faculty member shall pay twentythirty-five percent (235%) of the premium cost for HMO group medical coverage. Part-time faculty members shall be eligible to participate upon:

- Completing a minimum of a forty-five percent (450%) load for at least three (3) of four (4) consecutive regular semesters or an average of 450% load for four consecutive regular semesters, **and**

- Submitting to the Human Resource Services office, no later than ten (10) calendar days prior to commencement of each coverage period, a completed application form (see Benefits Coordinator for appropriate form).

• ~~**The above conditions shall be implemented starting the Spring 2020.**~~

16.10.6 If the premium costs for eligible applicants would exceed the funds allocated pursuant to Section 16.10 above, eligible part-time faculty members shall receive health benefit coverage in the following order of priority:

- Those on Step 4 **10** of the Part-Time (Adjunct) Faculty Salary Schedule, **followed by**

- Those on Steps 9,8, 7...3, ~~2~~ **and to** 1 of the Part-Time (Adjunct) Faculty Salary Schedule (in that order of priority)

If the budget allocation is insufficient to cover the District's share of premium costs for all eligible applicants on a given step, the order of priority among eligible applicants on that step shall be based upon the drawing of lots.

- 16.10.7 The coverage periods for participating part-time faculty members shall be six (6) months in duration commencing October 1<sup>st</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. Medical coverage shall continue without interruption during the respective coverage period regardless of any change in load or assignment during that period.
- 16.10.8 Part-time faculty members shall not be eligible to participate if they are eligible for medical insurance coverage provided through Medicare, MediCal, the employment of a domestic partner or spouse, or their own current or former employment outside of the District. During any period they are participating in the District plan, participating part-time faculty members shall promptly notify the Human Resource Services office when they become eligible for such other medical coverage.
- 16.10.9 Part-time faculty members receiving health benefits under this Article who do not receive a qualifying assignment in the immediately subsequent semester may continue their participation in this plan under the provisions of COBRA by paying 100% of the group rate during those coverage periods plus the COBRA administrative fee.
- 16.10.10 A plan design option for vision and dental HMO benefits will be made available to eligible part-time faculty during open enrollment. To be eligible, part-time faculty need to have an assignment during the six month coverage period. Plan costs, as provided by the carrier, can be purchased by the member at 100% of the cost and be deducted through payroll deduction or paid in full at the beginning of the semester in the event that the member's pay will be insufficient to cover the required payments. The coverage periods for participating part-time faculty members shall be six (6) months in duration commencing January 1<sup>st</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. Vision and dental coverage shall continue without interruption during the respective coverage period regardless of any change in load or assignment during that period. If during the subsequent six-month period, the member does not have an assignment the member may continue their participation in this plan under the provisions of COBRA by paying 100% of the group rate during those coverage periods plus the COBRA administrative fee.

#### 16.11 Emeritus Faculty Benefits

- 16.11.1 Emeritus faculty of Palomar College shall be entitled to the following benefits:
- Library borrowing privileges

- Staff parking pass
- Athletic event pass
- Staff discount for performing arts events
- Retention of their existing Palomar email account, unless otherwise determined by the Vice President of Human Resources as-based on extenuating circumstances such as existing or anticipated litigation or disciplinary related matters that would require issuance of a new email account
- The opportunity to audit or enroll in up to 6 units per semester at Palomar College, given that there is room available in the class(es).
- The opportunity to teach up to one assignment or .3 load per semester in the discipline they retired from, to be assigned after full-time overload, and before part-time faculty assignments are made. See Article 20.44-612. Emeriti faculty who are teaching are held to the standards for part-time faculty teaching as outlined in Article 20.10.

16.11.2 The above benefits shall be provided by the District at no cost to the Emeritus Faculty. Emeritus Faculty shall be entitled to the above benefits whether or not he or she is currently serving in a faculty assignment.

16.12 ECELS Teachers (see Appendix L) will receive the following employee benefits: Kaiser medical (full-time faculty plan), dental, vision, life/AD&D insurance, and long term care insurance.

