

Staff Newsletter

October 2020

INSURANCE INFORMATION

The annual open enrollment period for making changes to your benefits is in full swing and closes on Monday, November 30th. This year for the first time members of the University community will use the state [Employees' Group Insurance \(EGI\) Program portal](#) to make their changes (instructions for the [EGI portal are available here](#), this system will require a different login than your UWYO credential). Split coverage will still require paper forms from UW HR. Remember this is your only chance this year to make changes (unless you have a qualifying event) and the changes you elect will take effect on January 1, 2021.

This year, there have been some changes to the benefits options available. Open enrollment is a good time to review your current selections and make sure your benefits align with your needs.

Here are the highlights of this year's changes:

- The employer/employee contribution split is changing with employees contributing more (employer now pays 82% employee pays 18%) [view the breakdown here](#).
- The \$500 deductible plan is being eliminated
- A new \$4,000 deductible plan has been added
- New co-pays for physician services for most plans (\$35 for primary care, \$55 for specialists-does not apply to deductible)
- New additional life insurance available (voluntary)
- New emergency ground/air ambulance insurance available (voluntary)

More information is available on the [HR website](#) and in the most recent [Benefit Press Newsletter](#). It is recommended that you review the new [summary spreadsheet of benefits costs](#). If you have questions or need help contact HR Benefits Office at (307) 766-2437 or claud@uwyo.edu. You can also contact EGI directly at (307) 777-6835.

UWYO 1150 COMMUNITY SERVICE COURSE OFFERED



Academic Affairs reported on a new 1-credit tuition-free course for students that requires 15 hours of community service. The course is currently only offered in the fall, but may be expanded to the spring semester as it's been very

popular with students. The popularity of the course has created the challenge of finding enough opportunities for students. If you know of an agency or UW department that may be interested, please email [Richard Raridon](#) with a description of the volunteer opportunity and contact information. More information about the course and a list of participating agencies can be found in [this press release](#).

YEARS OF SERVICE GIFTS

If you have yet to receive your Staff Recognition Day Years of Service gift from the spring, please contact [Lou Ann Chakmakian](#) to arrange a pick up date. Not sure if you qualify this year? Feel free to review the [list on our website](#). We would like to celebrate your commitment to UW!



POKES VOTE!

Election day is November 3rd, have you voted yet? Visit the [County Clerk's website](#) for in person polling place information. If you have a mail in ballot and haven't mailed it yet - take it to the drop off box at the Albany County Courthouse to ensure it arrives on time.

 uwyo.edu/staffsenate

 staffsen@uwyo.edu

 [@UWStaffSenate](#)



DEER OAKS EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (EAP)

The University of Wyoming recently moved to the Deer Oaks Employee Assistance Program, which will replace services previously offered by Mines & Associates.

Deer Oaks services extend to an employee's entire household, blood relative or not, and include:

- 6 free counseling sessions, per person, per issue, per year
- 6 sessions on stress reduction
- 6 sessions of life coaching
- Online, self-paced computerized CBT program to pair with counseling or to complete on your own
- Ride reimbursement
- Legal consultations
- Financial Services
- Assistance in identity theft/recovery
- Assistance in matching with childcare or elder care
- And more!

To learn about local providers, call 1-888-993-7650.

More information is available on the [Deer Oaks website](#) and a [Deer Oaks UW EAP Orientation recording](#) is available as well.

LIAISON REPORTS

It was announced that the **Strategic Improvement Working Group** and the **Enterprise Risk Management Advisory Committee** will be indefinitely suspended, most likely due to the focus on COVID-19 at this time. It was also announced that Jean Garrison has stepped down as the Director of the Office of Outreach and Engagement, there is no information yet on how this will affect the **President's Engagement Council**. Staff Senate currently has vacant seats on the **Advisory Council on Diversity and Equity**, the **No More Committee**, and the **UW International Advisory Council**. Other announcements from liaison reports include:

Athletic Planning Student-Athlete Well-Being Committee

- The E7220 program has added more well-being sessions, One-Love sessions which focuses on domestic violence awareness, and more inclusion sessions. It was also mentioned that student-athletes are seeking more counseling than usual due to COVID-19 issues. Five football players have opted out of the season for similar reasons.

Food Insecurity Task Force

- The [UW Food Share Pantry](#) in the Union breezeway has been moved to Knight Hall Room 106. It is available to students and staff in need.

KNOW YOUR SENATOR



Amanda Kuster
*7220 Entertainment Advisor,
Center for Student Involvement
and Leadership (CSIL)*

Amanda Kuster is a career nomad – moving around the states to pursue different careers within Higher Education. She moved to Laramie in Oct. 2018 to join the Center for Student Involvement and Leadership (CSIL) as the 7220 Entertainment Advisor.

Amanda comes from a Housing and Residence Life background – starting her graduate career at the University of Central Arkansas as the Resident Housing Association (RHA) Advisor, graduating to become a Residence Life Coordinator at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, then moving back to Arkansas to be the Assistant Director of Residence Life and Student Activities with an emphasis in Global Initiatives, working with International student population. Amanda enjoys her current position which empowers 7220 Student Coordinators to lead events, grab & go offerings, virtual, and mail-out engagement opportunities.

Amanda was confirmed to Staff Senate in September, 2020. The reason she joined was to learn more about the inter-working's of campus community and to make more connections with her colleagues. She says, "The Laradise community has really grown on me, and I feel like I'm starting to make my mark with my Student Coordinators taking the lead – I can't wait to see what they can bring to this campus and the Laramie community." In her spare time, Amanda likes to work on her stand-up comedy routines, acrylic painting (Laramie host a mural on a fence located on 4th and Grand), and she just started the professional MBA program at the University of Wyoming.

BUDGET REDUCTION UPDATE

The President has released a draft of proposed budget cuts and some [next steps in the process of making those cuts](#). Thanks to all of the staff members who contributed their thoughts during the recent round of listening sessions. Staff Senate will continue to share any information and upcoming available opportunities to weigh in on the budget conversation. In the meantime please feel free share questions and concerns with [your Senator](#).

● November Staff Senate Meeting

Wednesday, November 4th at 1:15 PM

Virtual meeting via Zoom – Meeting ID: 912 2618 1315