

**SPECIAL REPORT**  
of the  
**INTERNATIONAL STUDIES COUNCIL**  
concerning  
**THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AD HOC COMMITTEE**  
**ON HEALTH INSURANCE**  
**FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Adopted unanimously by the Rules Committee,  
acting on behalf of the Faculty Senate,  
July 15, 2010

Presented at the  
695<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
May 13, 2010

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

Neal Abraham	Yariv Z. Levi
Irena Bozin-Mirkovic	Raymond Mahoney
Elizabeth Brabec	Ernest May
Donal Carbaugh, Chair	Jose Ornelas
Edward Chang (Emeriti)	Howard Peelle
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Stephen Forrest	Elizabeth Schumacher
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Frank Hugus	Michael Sugerman
Sangeeta Kamat	Richard Taupier
Elena Khatskevich	Russell Tessier
Nigar Khan	Nate Therien
Guy Lanza	Pat Vokbus

**Background:**

Massachusetts law mandates that all students, international and domestic, who are enrolled at an institution of higher learning in the Commonwealth participate in the Student Health Program (SHP).

The University of Massachusetts Amherst requires all students to purchase insurance from the school-sponsored Student Health Insurance Plan unless they submit a written waiver petition verifying that they have purchased *comparable* coverage from a U.S.-based insurance carrier. Coverage by non-U.S. carriers is deemed not comparable. Since 2003 the University of Massachusetts Amherst has further mandated that *all* international students (including those exchange students who previously might have qualified for an exemption from SHP legislation) must enroll in the UMass Student Health Insurance Plan unless they can demonstrate that they have *comparable* coverage that is issued by a U.S.-based company.

Other campuses within the University of Massachusetts system, however, permit exchange students and some sponsored students (e.g., Fulbright students) to be covered by non-U.S. insurance.

The Amherst campus's policy of not allowing international exchange and sponsored students to use coverage other than the mandated SHP insurance has led at least one of the University's overseas exchange partners (e.g., Sussex University) to terminate its agreement with our campus. In addition, agencies such as the Fulbright Commission and the Ford Foundation have in some cases refused to sponsor a student on the Amherst campus because of the cost of the SHIP coverage (which makes UMass Amherst's costs uncompetitive with other universities).

**Charge:**

To review the Massachusetts law that mandates student participation in SHP; to determine what waivers are now permitted under the law; to examine campus policy regarding waivers for international students, specifically for exchange and sponsored students; to consider changes in campus policy; and to issue recommendations to the Faculty Senate.

**Membership:**

1. Three Members of the Faculty, at large;
2. The Vice Provost and Director of the International Programs Office or a designee;
3. The Chair of the International Studies Council or a designee;
4. The Provost or a designee, serving ex officio;
5. The Secretary of the Faculty Senate or a designee;
6. One Staff Member from the International Programs Office;
7. The Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Campus Life or a designee;
8. The President of the Graduate Student Senate or a designee; and
9. The President of the Student Government Association or a designee.

The Committee will elect a Chair from among its members.

**Reporting Date:** The Committee will submit its written report with motion(s) for consideration by the Faculty Senate to the Rules Committee before the end of the Fall Semester 2010.

**MOVED:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee on Health  
51-10 Insurance for International Students, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 10-049A.