October 29, 2014

RE: UC STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE PLAN (SHIP)

WAIVER CRITERIA CHANGE (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2, 2015 at UC IRVINE)

Dear Students:

The University of California requires all registered domestic and international students to have health insurance as a non-academic condition of enrollment at a UC campus. UC graduate and undergraduate students are automatically enrolled in the University’s student health insurance plan unless their request to waive enrollment is approved.

The University establishes minimum standards for coverage, referred to as the Waiver Criteria, each academic year. The intent is to ensure that UC students have adequate health insurance as protection against catastrophic medical expenses in the event of serious illness or injury. The University’s criteria to waive enrollment in UC-sponsored health insurance are evaluated annually by UC administrators, Student Health officials and UC Office of the President; it is a collaborative effort. Adjustments may occur from year to year to meet challenges of new health care legislation or other changes in the health care industry.

Student Health Insurance Waiver Criteria have been changed. This Fall, the minimum coverage criteria required to waive enrollment in SHIP presented new challenges for students, parents and UC administrators alike. In response, campus student health administrators, student representatives and Office of the President have developed streamlined, less restrictive waiver criteria to be effective for the 2015-2016 academic year. Each campus may consider implementing the new criteria for the upcoming academic term. UC Irvine has opted to implement the new criteria for the Winter Quarter 2015. Some students whose waivers were not approved for Fall may be able to waive enrollment in SHIP for Winter quarter or Spring semester, 2015.

Please visit UCI’s Student Health Center website at www.shc.uci.edu for more information, winter/spring waiver period dates and a list of minimum criteria your health insurance plan must meet to waive enrollment in SHIP.

Waiver Criteria will be consistent systemwide. The University’s goal across the system is for SHIP to provide students with access to high quality, affordable health care. It is critical to require that students’ insurance has local network providers available in order to make sure students have convenient access to medical and mental health care within the community. However, each UC campus is distinct from the others in character and location. While many areas of California offer
A robust network of physicians and hospitals, others have limited local providers. Therefore, the requirement to have local medical and mental health care within a specific distance of the campus, or student’s residence while attending the University, may vary depending on which campus you attend. At UC Irvine, the distance requirement is 50 miles.

**The new waiver criteria are not retroactive.**
The new waiver criteria will apply to academic terms beginning in January 2015 and going forward. There will be no re-evaluation of Fall 2014 waiver denials or denied appeals. No waiver denials will be reversed and no refunds will be granted for Fall 2014.

**The new Waiver Criteria for Academic Year 2015-2016.**
The new, streamlined criteria mentioned above will be the Waiver Criteria for Academic Year 2015-16. Students and their families can begin now to plan for next academic year. As indicated above, UC Irvine has opted to implement the new criteria for the Winter Quarter 2015.

Covered California open enrollment begins November 15, 2014. Review your plan options carefully. Consider and compare plan cost, benefits and the network of preferred providers to your campus SHIP program.

**Student Health Insurance Plan**
SHIP is a comprehensive program including medical, behavioral health, and pharmacy coverage; dental and vision coverage are also included in the package at UC Irvine. This program was designed especially for students and offers low cost, excellent benefits and a large provider network for care outside the student health center when the student has a referral.

Please visit [www.shc.uci.edu](http://www.shc.uci.edu) or [www.ucop.edu/ucship](http://www.ucop.edu/ucship) to review SHIP program information.