

*Domestic Partner Benefits Proposal from the Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee 2005-2006  
Summary Report*

The issue of health benefits for domestic partners was referred back to the BFW committee from faculty senate on December 5, 2005. The Budget and Faculty Welfare Committee has overseen the posting to the Faculty Senate website of the information the Senate requested. (See Domestic Partners on the Faculty Senate webpage). The BFW has further investigated the question of costs and although the actual cost to add dependent coverage for same-sex domestic partners is difficult to estimate with certainty, it is clear that the cost would be small in relation to the overall cost of the health plan. The BFW committee only considered cost information for “health benefits to same-sex domestic partners of Utah State University faculty and staff” as requested by the proposal, and did not address the cost of other benefits (e.g. bereavement leave, half price tuition for spouses, health benefits for dependent children of domestic partners, etc.). Such potential additional benefits were not included in the specific proposal under consideration. The most-current version of the domestic partner proposal is available on the faculty senate website. The BFW discussed these issues at the January 31, 2006 meeting and has returned the issue to the faculty senate for their consideration.