



University of Washington
FACULTY SENATE
Box 351271

Class C Bulletin No. 419

**Resolution Concerning Endorsing the
SEIU Local/Classified Staff Association regarding Health Care Costs**

Class C Resolution adopted at the October 24, 2002, Faculty Senate Meeting

OPEN LETTER

It's Time for the University of Washington to Lead on Health Care in our State

Access to affordable health care is a growing crisis in our country. Nationwide, tens of millions of Americans have no healthcare, and the number is growing. At the University of Washington, and for Washington State employees in general, average health care costs will jump 75% next year. In some cases, the cost to families will rise 900%. Sadly, these increases will place health insurance beyond the reach of some UW employees.

Rising state employee health care costs have a ripple affect throughout our community. The State of Washington employs approximately 100,000 workers. Traditionally, state employees have enjoyed affordable health insurance. This has set a standard for other regional employers. As state employees pay more for their insurance, the bar is lowered and the race to the bottom continues.

As a major employer with over 40,000 state employees, the University of Washington can take a leading role in addressing the healthcare crisis.

- With its own employees, the UW should consider absorbing some portion of healthcare cost increases, rather than passing them all on faculty and staff.
- In the upcoming legislative session, the UW should work with labor, community and religious organizations to pass legislation to lower healthcare costs overall, including a Prescription Drug bill.

In the face of a state and national care crisis, we urge the University of Washington to help lead us in the right direction.

Approved by:
Senate Executive Committee
October 21, 2002

Approved by:
Faculty Senate
October 24, 2002