

**A Resolution to Recommend Modifications to the
University of Nebraska Health Care Benefit
Proposed to University of Nebraska
By the University of Nebraska at Kearney (UNK) Faculty Senate
October 2, 2014**

WHEREAS, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska (BCBSNE) and Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI) have been unable to reach an agreement to keep CHI hospitals, which includes CHI Health Good Samaritan hospital in Kearney, in the preferred provider network when their contract expired September 1, 2014; and

WHEREAS, the *Kearney Hub* newspaper reported on September 17, 2014, “*The head of CHI Health in Omaha suggested this week that his organization and the state’s largest commercial health insurer (BCBSNE) might never get back together*”; and

WHEREAS, as of September 8, 2014 BCBSNE has agreed to provide UNK employees, their spouses and dependents Continuity of Care services at Good Samaritan Hospital for diagnoses after September 1, 2014, for non-surgical or surgical treatment for cancer, treatment for severe or end-stage renal disease or dialysis, treatment for HIV and AIDS, pregnancy, and bone marrow or organ transplant; because of the unavailability of these services at non-CHI facilities in the Kearney area; and

WHEREAS, UNK employees will not have in-network provider health care coverage in the immediate Kearney-area for numerous other health-related needs, such as digital mammography; and

WHEREAS, the increased cost in terms of both lost productivity for the University and travel costs for the employees that will result as employees are required to travel to seek medical treatment, will make UNK a less attractive employer and a less attractive choice for students;

THEREFORE be it resolved that the members of the UNK Faculty Senate recommend the University of Nebraska, through the University-wide Employee Benefits Advisory Committee, and the office of the University Benefits Administrator

- in the short term, seek special accommodations with BCBSNE to expand the **Continuity of Care services for UNK employees at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital for all health care services currently unavailable in-network in the Kearney area**; and
- investigate using another health care provider for the long-term that will include full health care coverage in the Kearney area; or investigate other permanent solutions to this problem.