

## Graduate Student Healthcare Update, GSC Policy Document

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 1 attachments (83 KB)

GSC Health Insurance Policy Statement - 2021-04-27.pdf;

Dear Graduate Students,

The Faculty's Standing Health Committee has received a number of bids for the 2021-22 student health insurance plan from several carriers, including our current one (UHCSR). All of the insurance plan bids would increase the healthcare premium compared to this year's premium to keep all other plan parameters the same. There are also further, smaller, increases to the premium in order to improve various plan parameters.

One of these bids involves switching to Anthem as a carrier, and the resulting premium increase over the current year would be 11%, which would be smaller than the premium if we remain with UHCSR (19% increase over the current year). Additionally, reducing the in-network out-of-pocket maximum from \$2000 to \$1000 and the in-network deductible from \$500 to \$250 would lead to a further premium increase of \$77.

The GSC Board of Directors (BoD) believes that small increases in the premiums, subsidised by Caltech, is better than allowing the burden of large healthcare costs to fall on those that happen to need treatment. The BoD has therefore voted to approve the attached advisory resolution and sent it to the Faculty's Standing Health Committee as it makes its recommendation to Caltech administrators. The BoD resolution states that this switch to Anthem is acceptable provided that Caltech continues to subsidize the premium at the current level of 80% and that disruption to student care is minimal. Please read the statement for the entire set of details and caveats.

In the coming weeks, the Faculty's Standing Health Committee will communicate its final recommendation to the Provost and Vice President for Administration/Chief Financial Officer for approval. After that, graduate students will be notified of the changes to the plan.

Pushing for improvements to our plan has been the focus of many students over the past year. We will only get better insurance if we continue to advocate for ourselves. If you're interested in helping improve graduate student healthcare at Caltech, please get in touch.

In Solidarity,

Jane and Ashay

Graduate Student Representatives on the Faculty's Standing Health Committee

GSC Health Subcommittee