**Resolution of the OSU Faculty Senate Regarding**

**Public Employee Benefits Board Decisions:**

Whereas: As public employees, the Faculty and Staff of OSU are required to use PEBB-approved benefits plans to receive medical and dental benefits, if they desire coverage associated with their employment;

Whereas: The Open Enrollment policies and timeframe for PEBB-approved medical and dental plans are decided by PEBB;

Whereas: PEBB has established an Open Enrollment period of one month (October 2010);

Whereas: For a number of reasons, many related to travel required to fulfill the responsibilities of the position descriptions of the Faculty and Staff, OSU Faculty and Staff members may be out of communication for periods of over a month;

Whereas: If an OSU Faculty or Staff does not enroll in a medical and dental plan for 2011 – either by choosing to continue current plans or selecting new plans – during Open Enrollment, they will be automatically enrolled for employee-only coverage in the PEBB Statewide and ODS Traditional plans. Other individuals now covered will lose coverage Jan. 1, 2011.

Whereas: The consequences for a public employee or their family members’ lack of medical and/or dental coverage are inconsistent with PEBB’s value statement of serving government for “the improvement of employee health;”

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. We request that the default outcome of no action during an Open Enrollment should be the closest possible coverage to that which the employee had prior to the Open Enrollment period.
2. That PEBB should put continuance of and provision of promised benefits as the top priority in all decisions regarding the provisions of medical and dental benefits for public employees.

Presented to the OSU Faculty Senate by the Faculty Senate Economic Welfare and Retirement Committee and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Unanimously passed by the OSU Faculty Senate on October 14, 2010.