

April 01, 2018

Senate Executive Committee

RE: International Travel Insurance and Support for University Travelers

Dear Members of the Senate Executive Committee,

Please find enclosed the proposed International Travel Safety and Insurance Permanent Rule for the University of Utah. This rule contains updated language from the original “Interim Rule” passed in October 2016, and I am requesting that you use your authority to adopt this permanent replacement for the existing Interim Rule 3-030D regarding International Travel Safety and Insurance.

Each year, over 1000 University of Utah students, and over 2500 University employees, travel to international locations on recognized University business or programs. Although University traveler insurance enrollment compliance rates have risen over the past 3 years from 22% to 54%, at this time many University of Utah faculty and staff continue to engage in extensive international travel without appropriate insurance coverage in place to protect them in the case of medical and/or other emergencies overseas. Without such coverage, the University’s ability to provide meaningful support and assistance to our travelers is severely diminished.

The revisions enclosed in the Permanent Rule attached serve to strengthen the University’s ability to effectively track and monitor University-affiliated travel to international locations, and in turn ensure that travelers have access to appropriate insurance and assistance services while abroad. The adoption of this permanent rule will allow the University to continue to proactively mitigate known travel risks associated with University travel to international locations, and in turn effectively anticipate - and respond to - health and safety events which may affect University travelers abroad.

A few notes about the changes to language in the rule: The new rule language references the travel registration systems currently in place for all University travelers (e.g. faculty, staff, individual students, and student groups). Pre-existing University travel registration platforms in both Travel Management Services (TMS), and the Learning Abroad Office, are currently being utilized for the purposes of registering, reviewing, tracking and monitoring University-affiliated international travel.

In addition, TMS will soon be in position to integrate international insurance and assistance enrollment into their current travel registration system for employees. The framework for this ‘insurance enrollment integration’ step has been developed over the last year through a joint effort between Office for Global Engagement (OGE), TMS and the University international insurance provider – Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI). When the TMS travel registration platform concludes a major system upgrade later this year, the partnership will work to complete this final step.

Finally, Much of the language in the Permanent Rule speaks to the travel safety and security benchmarks used in international risk management – namely “U.S. Dept. of State Travel Advisories” and “CDC Travel Health Notices”. These benchmarks are used across the field of higher education international risk management, and are the basis for many institutional rules and policies. On January 10, 2018 - the U.S. Dept. of State rolled out a complete re-design of their Travel Warnings and Advisories System, introducing new messaging and advisory levels, and eliminating Travel Warning benchmarks

and language which had been historically used. After working to review and understand the new travel advisories and messaging, considerations for the new Dept. of State Travel Advisory system are written into the language of the Permanent Rule.

Thank you for considering this request. Please contact me if I am able to provide any additional information.

Sincerely,

Sean Bridegam
Global Risk Manager
Office for Global Engagement
(801) 581-4042
globalriskmanager@utah.edu