September 13, 2017

Stephen Siegel, Ph.D.
Chair
University of Washington Faculty
Council for Benefits and Retirement
36 Gerberding Hall
Box 351271
Seattle, WA 98195-1271

Thaisa Way
Chair
Faculty Senate
36 Gerberding Hall
Box 351271
Seattle, WA 98195-1271

Dear Chairs Siegel and Way:

Thank you for your correspondence of August 23, regarding the long-term disability insurance provided to Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program members. This benefit was designed and implemented many years ago and has not been significantly redesigned in the past ten years due to the cost implications of increasing the basic benefit. We appreciate the information you provided about the large increase in rents versus the increase in the general consumer index as it relates to the Seattle area market.

We have recently begun the process of formally analyzing this benefit with the goal of improving it in the next few years. The suggestion you made regarding an additional optional long-term disability benefit will be one of the concepts discussed as we move forward with this analysis.

Should you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact Betsy Cottle, Program Specialist, by telephone at 360-725-1098 or via email at betsy.cottle@hca.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Lou McDermott
Acting Director