

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Minutes for August 12, 2009
Clark-Lindsey Board Room

Present: Mary Beastall, David Bechtel, Gerald Brighton, Steve D'Arcy, Paul Dollins, Gary Engelgau, Alita Hunt, Katharine Kral, Carl Larson, Morgan Lyngge, Judy Rathgeber, Heidi Rockwood, Helen Satterthwaite, H. F. Beastall

I. Call to Order and President's Report

A. Call to Order. Beastall called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

B. Approval of the Minutes. The minutes for June 10, 2009 were approved. The Committee thanked Katharine Kral for her work as Secretary last year.

C. Review of Roster of Executive Committee. A copy of the 2009-2010 roster was in the packet. The principal items to note are that Walt Tousey and Helen Satterthwaite will continue on the Committee. Dennis Vitoni will continue on the Benefits Committee, but is no longer a member of the Executive Committee. Bill Stallman is no longer listed on the Executive Committee roster after many years of dedicated service. President Beastall will meet with the Archivist Hugh Satterlee and Lois Pausch to determine their interest in continuing to serve.

D. Review of schedule of meetings for fall, 2009. The Big Ten Retirees Association Meeting will be held on Iowa August 14-16. The Executive Committee will be meeting September 9, October 14, November 11, and December 9, the second Wednesday of each the month. The State Directors Meeting will be in Urbana on October 5, 2009 at the Holiday Inn (see item III, C below). The General Membership Meeting will be October 25, 2009 at the I Hotel (see item III, D below).

E. President's Report The Executive Committee thanked Bill Williamson for his service as President the past year. Beastall explained that our major initiatives this year would be:

1. A revision to the bylaws
2. Legislation
3. Membership
4. Communications
5. Benefits
6. Efficiency

II. Treasurer's Report: Brighton presented two monthly reports since there was no meeting in July. One was for June, 2009 (in the report covering activity from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009). The second was for July, 2009. Items to note include the reimbursement for the Big Ten Conference that was received in July and dues for June were not received in time to be included. Changes are being made to the check signers to allow President Beastall, Vice President Todd, Secretary D'Arcy and Treasurer Brighton all to be able to sign checks. It is expected that Todd and D'Arcy would only be called to sign checks when Brighton and Beastall were not available. Brighton reported that he was renewing certificates of deposit for only 6 months as interest rates were historically low. For the year ending 6/30/09, expenses were higher than normal due to the cost of hosting the Big Ten Meeting, but expenses were still below revenues by \$3,818. Members of the Committee suggested that we should be willing to spend funds on effective programs. A motion to accept the budget was approved unanimously.

III. Action Items

A. Report on State Directors' Meeting, June 23-24, 2009. Beastall and others who attended reported on the meeting and handed out a copy of the agenda. Williamson reported on the actions of SURSMAC (the Membership Advisory Committee), which passed two resolutions. The first was on the Need to Protect Member Benefits. The second was on the Consolidation of State Retirement Plans. This resolution called for excluding SURS from any consolidation given its above average investment record. Beastall reported on Membership, which called for a focus on current employees. Williamson reported on the Foundation meeting, at which State Executive Director Linda Brockhardt asked for support for computer costs. Beastall reported that the Business Meeting considered two budgets, one of which included a dues increase in January 2010. Beastall also reported on the SUAAction, which has raised over \$150,000 from 3972 contributors. Most members do not contribute to SUAAction; ten chapters account for 72.5% of the total.

B. Plans for 2009 Big Ten Retirees Association Meeting in Iowa, August 14-16, 2009 Attendees have been asked to consider three questions and be prepared to discuss:

1. Differences of the U of I compared to other members
 - a. Part of the State Retirement System
 - b. Chapter of State Annuitants Association
2. Special programs for retirees
 - a. OLLI (Office of Lifetime Learning Initiative)
3. State legislation

C. Plans for Fall State Directors Meeting, October 5, 2009 at Holiday Inn in Urbana. Lyng reported that our members do not pay the registration fee since our chapter is covering the luncheon expenses. Our seven directors should be there, or arrange for alternates, as there is likely to be a vote on the dues increase. The luncheon speaker is expected to be State Senate President John Cullerton. A member suggested that State Senator Mike Frerichs should also be invited as this event takes place in his district.

D. Plans for Fall General Membership Meeting, October 22, 2009 at I Hotel. Lyng reported that the program would consist of a panel of the newly elected SURS directors. John Engstrom, Dorinda Miller and Fred Giertz are expected to attend. Williamson recommended that Judy Rathgeber, Helen Satterthwaite and David Bechtel work on questions for the panelists.

IV. Reporting Items

A. Membership. Kral reported that membership has dropped slightly from 2,024 to 2,021.

B. Legislative Committee/Political Action. Dollins handed out the latest Legislative Directory and suggested visiting with local state legislatures to explain our position on the need for additional state revenue. The current state budget continues to borrow funds that will need to be repaid in the future, curtailing other uses for any additional revenue that becomes available when the recession ends. Dollins also reported on the Pension Modernization Task Force. Historically recommendations of such task forces has not led to legislative changes, but any recommendations that would reduce costs might be adopted.

C. Election of SURS Board of Trustees. Dollins circulated an article by Fred Giertz discussing the recent election. Five of the six trustees were those supported by a union backed campaign, illustrating the advantage of an organization in this election. Although the UIUC represents the largest number of annuitants, neither of the annuitant trustees is from our campus. One reason for this is that three candidates from the UIUC were on the ballot, splitting this vote.

D. Benefits Committee. Rathgeber reported on the initial charge of this committee, which was to establish a support system for widows and widowers of SURS members. However, concern over trying to contact someone who has lost a spouse, and the proximity of the SURS office which can provide help, led to a change in focus. Instead workshops were offered on survivor related topics for members. Additional topics will be considered for the future. The possibility of developing checklists of steps for UIUC employees to take prior to retirement and for annuitants to take during retirement, including on the loss of a spouse, could fill a need.

E. Communications Committee. Engelgau reported that the website has been revised recently and asked members to look at the new design and let him know if you have any comments. He also made a motion asking members to forward any articles or links that we think should be posted or included in the newsletter. This motion was passed.

F. Newsletter. Rockwood reported that the fall newsletter would be on white paper, as it is less expensive. This change was approved.

G. Proposed Revision of Bylaws. Williamson reported on the bylaws revision process.

V. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m. Our next meeting will be September 9, 2009 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Board Room.

Respectfully submitted, Stephen D'Arcy, Secretary