

# STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

## UIUC Chapter Executive Committee

Web site: <http://www.suaa-ui.org>

### Minutes for *September 14, 2011*; Clark-Lindsay Board Room

**Attending:** Mary Beastall, Gerald Brighton, Tom Conry, Stephen D'Arcy, Paul Dollins, Gary Engelgau, Athalia Hunt, Carl Larson, Jane Loeb, Terri Palumbo, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Helen Satterthwaite (joined late), Bob Todd, Ginny Waaler, Bill Williamson

#### I. Call to Order and President's Report

- A. Meeting was called to order by President Conry at 1:34PM.
- B. Minutes for the meeting of August 10, 2011 were approved as submitted.
- C. Schedule of meetings for fall was reviewed:
  - Fall General Membership Meeting; October 16 at the I-Hotel
  - Fall 2011 State Directors Meeting, October 18, Illinois State University.
  - 2011 All-Employee Expo, October 18. [Exec Committee members were encouraged to attend]
  - Survivor Workshop, SURS, **November 10** at 10:00am
  - Future meetings of Executive Committee are: October 12, November 9, and December 14, 2011.
- D. President's Report: President Conry will draft a welcome letter for incoming UIUC Chancellor Wise. Tom will also finalize the letter to the state office regarding SUAA Action.

#### II. Treasurer's Report:

- Receipts for August were \$2,234; disbursements were \$255.
- Fund balance on July 31 was \$88,673 (\$47,001 CDs + \$41,672 checking)
- Report was accepted.

#### III. Action Items

A. **State Directors Meeting**, Springfield, Sept 12, 2011; Dollins attended and distributed notes and information from the meeting via e-mail on 9/13. Dick Lockhart is concerned about the likelihood of adverse actions or legislation in Springfield – especially regarding existing employees - during the fall veto session which begins 10/25/11. Executive Committee members should be prepared for substantial related activity this fall. Our Chapter should give consideration to a one-page “legislative alert” covering emergent topics from the legislature. Such an alert would be distributed quickly to members, at times urging them to contact their legislator(s) regarding the item(s) of concern. Quick distribution virtually requires the use of email. Additional discussion ensued regarding how to increase the number of members reachable by e-mail.

The state directors will be communicating with all SUAA local chapters regarding the funding of the legal defense fund passed last month.

The next state Directors' meeting will be 10/18/11 at ISU. Beastall, Conry, Dollins, and Williamson will attend. A final list of those attending will be assembled at the next Exec Committee meeting.

- B. 2011 **Big 10 Retirees Association Meeting** at UW-Madison; September 12-14, 2011; Attended by Conry and Williamson. Williamson distributed hard copy information, in addition to the final meeting agenda and information from conference attendees he sent via e-mail on September

12. It was noted that many of the other Big Ten institutions have very different relationships with their retiree organizations – for a wide range of reasons.

**C. Fall General Membership Meeting:** Sunday, October 16, 2011

The I-Hotel was confirmed as the location, refreshments will be as in the past, and there will be an additional two “roving” microphones for questions/comments from the floor. Seating will be for 150. There will be an e-mail sign-up sheet at the conference reception desk.

Featured speaker UofI President Michael Hogan has broad latitude for his comments; as there are a great many areas he can talk about.

The agenda will have President Hogan speaking first, with the business meeting to follow.

**D. Exec Committee approval of expenditure for a newsletter designer** — expected cost about \$500, not to exceed \$700. Because of the need to get the newsletter in the mail very soon, President Conry previously authorized this expenditure. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the expenditure.

**E. Dues Increase:** A motion was made, seconded and approved to increase the Chapter’s portion of the annual dues to accommodate the introduction of the option of dues deduction for existing UofI employees. The Chapter’s portion will increase from \$5 to \$8 so that total dues will increase from \$30 to \$33 (or from \$2.50 per month to \$2.75). The actual start date when the University will implement the change is unknown but is likely to be November, 2011. Information that a change is forthcoming will be included in the fall Newsletter.

**F. Nominee for ex officio seat on Senate Faculty-Staff Benefits Committee:** Williamson continues to fill this role.

#### **IV. Reporting Items**

**A. Membership:** Terri Palumbo reported a net loss of one member in August. Discussion entailed ways the Chapter can stimulate membership. Suggestions included:

- Emphasize dues deduction, as it eliminates the requirement for members to write an annual check.
- Match the UIUC emeriti list against the Chapter membership list; send a solicitation to the non-members.

**B. Legislative Committee/Political Action:** Rugg, Satterthwaite, Schoell

- The upcoming newsletter should include an item that encourages members to contact legislators about retiree issues and concerns. Rugg will draft and forward to Engelgau on or before Friday, Sept 16.
- UofI Institute for Public and Governmental Affairs has scheduled an invitation-only seminar on public pensions for October 2, 3; 2011. Twenty or so legislators will attend, as will many of the legislative appropriation chairs. Rugg will request that IGPA invite President Conry,

- Paul Dollins, and Linda Brookhart. It is important the state SUAA office be represented and has opportunity to comment/participate.
- Rugg has been invited to a group that will advise the state SUAA Directors on matters related to effective legislative relations.

**C. Benefits Committee:** Beastall

Beastall conveyed that there will be Chapter-sponsored Survivor Assistance Workshop at 10 a.m. on November 10, 2011 at the SURS headquarters. She also noted that SURS has established the position of Director of Outreach and named Pam Butler to that post. Butler is working on holding a post-retirement workshop.”

**D. Communications Committee:** Larson, Engelgau, Rockwood

The next newsletter will be finalized with the contracted designer on Friday (9/16/11) or Monday (9/19/11). ALL items and articles must be submitted by then.

**E. Newsletter:** Rockwood, Larson

See previous item

**V. New Business**

**A. Campaign for New Members, particularly from current employees**

Terri Palumbo will schedule a special meeting for Exec Committee members to brainstorm Chapter membership ideas and strategies.

**B. A letter will be drafted for President Conry’s signature that exhorts faculty and staff within 4 to 5 years of retirement to join SUAA.**

**VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:23 PM. Next meeting will be Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Board Room.

Minutes submitted by Terry Ruprecht, UIUC Chapter Secretary