

# STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

## UIUC Chapter Executive Committee

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

### Minutes for November 9, 2011; Clark-Lindsay Meeting Room

**Attending:** Gerald Brighton, Tom Conry, Paul Dollins, Gary Engelgau, Mark Netter, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Bob Todd, Bill Williamson

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

- A. Meeting was called to order by President Conry at 1:35PM.
- B. Minutes for the meeting of October 12, 2011 were approved with a one word change.
- C. Schedule of meetings was reviewed:
  - Meetings of the Exec Committee: Dec 14, February 8, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13
  - Survivor Workshop, at SURS, November 10 at 10:00am
  - Spring general meeting, SUAA-UIUC Chapter: exact date to be determined, sometime in April '12, perhaps May '12.
  - Big Ten Retirees' Meeting: Ohio State Univ, August 2012
- D. President's Report: Conry will appoint a nominating committee soon; statements from candidates are needed before Feb 2012. The upcoming spring 2012 election will be the first under the modified bylaws.

#### II. Treasurer's Report (Brighton):

- Receipts for October were \$1433; disbursements were \$2512.
- Fund balance on October 30 was \$86,878 (\$47,001 CDs + \$39,877 checking)
- Report was accepted.

#### III. Action Items

##### A. Fall General Membership Meeting: Sunday, October 16, 2011

Meeting went generally well; attendance was good. Although the sound system and mike placement was reviewed with I-Hotel staff beforehand, many attendees had difficulty hearing President Hogan. For future general meetings, it may be good to remind speakers that much of the audience has impaired hearing. AGAIN, THAT'S IMPAIRED HEARING.

##### B. 2011 All-Employee Expo, October 18.

Exec Committee members who attended deemed the event "well worthwhile". Many prospective members picked up brochures and engaged in discussion with those staffing the table. Two needs cropped up for future similar events: 1) we need a process for responding to people who express concern or criticism of SUAA actions or policies. *[see further discussion below, Item III G]* 2) the lack of clear and effective communication channels between university administrators and retirees continues to be troublesome.

##### C. Dues Increase

A letter was sent circa 11/30/11 to SUAA members by Linda Brookhart (also carrying Conry's signature for UIUC Chapter members) explaining the slight dues increase.

Future information to prospective members needs to include the new SUAA dues structure and the new option of payroll deduction for university employees.

##### D State Directors Meeting on October 18 at ISU.

Five members of the Exec Committee attended (Beastall, Conry, Dollins, Todd, Williamson). A vote was taken on the SUAA legislative platform ... it was approved, though there was significant discussion surrounding an item therein supporting state income tax on pensions over \$100k per year. A separate vote was taken on this item; the results of which were 33 against, 44 for.

**E. Plans for the upcoming Survivor Workshop (aka Survivor Assistance workshop)**

Williamson handed out the agenda from the similar workshop in 2009. D'Arcy will be updating the information and agenda as necessary for the November 10 workshop.

**F. Plans for Spring '12 General Membership meeting:**

No information on room and food arrangements. Chancellor Wise is still the #1 choice for speaker; no affirmation of same as of yet. We need to think about a "Plan B" for speaker in the event Chancellor Wise cannot make it. Suggestions included Bill Mabe of SURS and Dick Lockhart.

**G. Answering Chapter inquiries such as gun legislation (concealed carry) and delayed payments by CIGNA health insurance.** Discussion surrounded the lack of clear guidelines or procedures for responding to questions from members or prospective members about SUAA actions and/or positions on various issues. Who makes the official Chapter response? What if the question relates to the state SUAA position? In what timeframe? Should someone review/approve official responses? Until further clarity on this topic, the Communications Committee will route the question to an Exec Committee member they believe best equipped to answer it. It will be up to that individual to determine if approval of the response is needed from the Chapter President or the Exec Committee.

**IV. Reporting Items**

**A. Membership:** A net increase of 11 in membership was reported for October; from 2082 to 2093. It is believed this is in part a result of the Employee Expo.

Letters were sent to non-renewers ( the ~60 people who did not renew membership in the last year) encouraging them to reconsider.

A draft letter was reviewed that articulates the ease of dues deduction over mailing an annual check. A pre-addressed stamped return envelope will be included in the mailing. In the next few weeks it will be mailed to Chapter members now re-upping by annual check.

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

S512 is out of Committee and headed to the House for vote; this version includes Amendment 2, distributed by email a few weeks ago. If it passes the House, it returns to the Senate. There are few guesses as to how the House vote will go. Regardless of the outcome of SB512 in the veto session, it will return in one form or another after the first of the year. Another pension bill professing to correct "union abuses" is also in play in Springfield.

Exec Committee discussion also briefly included the "Illinois Connection", an alumni group fostered by President Stukel and the Alumni Association for advocacy for the UofI in a wide range of state and legislative issues. Membership of the group has grown significantly in the past two years.

**C. Benefits Committee:** Beastall

The Committee plans to discuss pros and cons of a potential fund to assist SUAA members in dire situations.

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

Our web site had 755 hits during October the third month in a row over 700; the previous high was 671. The web site has been redesigned; please review and provide Engelgau your concerns, comments, and/or lush praise.

We are working on sending the Newsletter via email to those who request it.

Engelgau requests we look into becoming an official Allied Agency of UIUC. (President Conry will follow up)

We should prepare an Eweek notice on payroll dues deduct to request publication when implemented.

A Spring Newsletter Editor is needed. Engelgau will have a calendar and draft procedures manual to prospective editors and an articles list distributed to Executive Committee members before the December meeting. UpClose will do the layout/design work at \$70/hr.

## **V. New Business**

## **VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM. Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Board Room.