

MINUTES

UIUC Chapter, SUAA Executive Committee

February 8, 2012

The meeting was convened in the Clark-Lindsey Board Room at 1:34 by President Tom Conry.

Members Present: Mary Beastall, Gerald Brighton, Tom Conry, Steve D'Arcy, Paul Dollins, Athalia Hunt, Jane Loeb, Terry Palumbo, Steve Rugg, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Bob Todd, Ginny Waller, Bill Williamson.

Minutes from the December 14, 2011 meeting were approved as presented.

Upcoming Schedule: President Conry reviewed the schedule of upcoming executive committee meetings through June, the Retirement Education Conference, Spring Meeting, Survivor Assistance Workshop, and the Big Ten meeting at Ohio State as presented in the Agenda.

President's Report: President Conry reminded the Nominating Committee that candidate statements are due in time to meet the printing deadline for publication in the *Annuitant*.

Treasurer's Report: the Treasurer's Report for the calendar year 2011 was presented. Total receipts of \$9,958 and total disbursements of \$11,363 resulted in a very slight drop (\$1,405) in the balance on hand, which remains robust at \$47,001.00. The Treasurer's report for January, 2012 shows receipts of \$720.00 and no disbursements. Both reports were approved as presented.

ACTION ITEMS

Spring Meeting Update: Waaler reported that Spring Meeting arrangements are complete at the Hawthorne Suites and Conference Center, beginning at 1:30 on Sunday, April 22. Room configuration will place the podium closer to the audience (or vice-versa), but will otherwise be set in the usual configuration and set up for 150. Registration table will be outside meeting room. Light refreshments will be available beginning at 1:30 and the meeting will start at 2:00 PM.

Rugg reported that Chancellor Wise has agreed to speak, and will address her general impressions of Illinois during her first year, the main elements of her "listening tour" and the "visioning exercise" begun in December. She will also be invited to comment on how retirees have been integrated into overall campus life at other universities at which she has served.

It is likely that there will be a good deal of interest in the upcoming open enrollment period for group health insurance at the Spring Meeting and that we should be as prepared as possible to respond to those questions or to help members understand how they can get information. Williamson reported that University HR has indicated that retirees will be able to attend campus meetings on health insurance issues, although SURS remains the insurance representative for retirees.

Benefits Committee: Williamson reviewed a draft agenda for the April 1, 2012 Retirement Education Conference sponsored by University HR and by our SUAA Chapter. We have been asked to contribute \$1,200 toward expenses for this session. Following discussion, on a motion from D'Arcy (Loeb) the committee voted unanimously to approve this expenditure.

Planning for the conference continues. It is expected that President Conry will make a presentation at the conference on the need for and value of SUAA membership. Other tasks to which executive committee members can contribute will be determined by a working group.

REPORTING ITEMS

Membership: current membership stands at 2,084. Palumbo will be sending a request for renewals to members who have let their membership lapse.

Legislative: Dollins reported that Dick Lockhart, the SUAA lobbyist, continues to be greatly concerned that Speaker Madigan's press for a Constitutional Amendment requiring a 3/5th vote in the General Assembly to pass any pension or benefit enhancements will receive enough support from the General Assembly to make it to the November election ballot. Given current attitudes toward "excessive" pensions for state employees and the substantial underfunding of the state's pension systems, there is a strong worry that if the amendment makes it to the election it will pass.

Schoell reported that visits to local legislators continue. A new round of visits will be planned after the primary election.

Dollins and Conry reviewed the need for and timing of letters on behalf of SUAAction, which will make election campaign contributions on behalf of those candidates who most support SUAA positions. The group discussed the need for a regional meeting at which State SUAA leaders would address central Illinois SUAA chapters on the need for increased activities supporting candidates who best support SUAA. The committee approved covering expenses up \$500 for such an event.

Communications/Newsletter: Loeb reported that she has most of the material in hand for the spring edition of the Annuitant, and urged those who still had material to submit to get it finalized as soon as possible.

Benefits: D'Arcy reported the Committee is working on information that would go to SUAA members on steps that might be taken by those who have encountered financial hardships due to the slowdown in state reimbursement of medical service providers and consideration of creation of an Annuitant's Assistance Fund that might be used to help defray expenses for those in dire fiscal need.

Nominating Committee: Dollins reported that two candidates have agreed to stand for election to the executive committee and can have bios available for the Annuitant. The committee continues to seek two other candidates, whose bios will be posted on the UIUC SUAA website as soon as they are available.

NEW BUSINESS

Dollins distributed a copy of a recruiting brochure used by the SUAA chapter at Parkland. The committee agreed that such a brochure is a useful tool. The committee cautioned, however, that care needs to be taken with the language used in such a document, and that some of the information highlighted in the Parkland brochure is not accurate. ("You can lose your benefits...")

ADJOURNMENT: the meeting adjourned at 3:13PM

Respectfully Submitted by Steve Rugg, Secretary Pro Tem