

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Web site: <http://www.suaa-ui.org>

Minutes for May 9, 2012; Clark-Lindsey Meeting Room

Attending: Mary Beastall, Gerald Brighton, Tom Conry, Paul Dollins, Gary Engelgau, Athalia Hunt, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Bob Todd, Ginny Waaler, Ron Webbink, 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 April 11, 2012 were approved
- C. Schedule of meetings was reviewed:
 - Future meetings of the Exec Committee: June 13
 - SUAA State Directors' meeting; Springfield, June 19-20, 2012
 - Big Ten Retirees' Meeting: Ohio State Univ, August 3-5, 2012
- D. President's Report: Welcome to the new members of the Exec Committee. Conry forwarded the SUAAction letter to Linda Brookhart on May 4, for mailing to UIUC Chapter members.

II. Treasurer's Report (Brighton):

- Receipts for April were \$734; disbursements were \$3,220, owing largely to \$2708 in Newsletter printing costs.
- Fund balances on April 30 were \$85,783 (\$47,063 CDs + \$38,720 checking)
- Approval was moved, seconded, and passed.

III. Action Items

A. Naming of the Nominating Committee for next year's officers

Conry called for volunteers; a committee will be named in ensuing weeks.

B. Review of spring 2012 General Meeting, discussion of scholarships vis-à-vis a focus on legal defense of pension benefits if such is necessary. See D'Arcy email of 5/2/12

- Not necessarily an either-or ... it may be possible for us to do both
- How do these two items fare against a medical emergency assistance fund discussed some weeks ago?
- It is unlikely our Chapter would undertake legal action, but Chapters might be called upon for a contribution if the State organization does
- In lieu of a scholarship, our chapter could support the UofI via sponsorships of HR events such as the April 1 Pre-Retirement workshop.
- A quick vote of Exec Committee showed that a clear majority are in favor of a scholarship, regardless of other possible demands for funds (e.g. legal fund, medical emergency assistance fund.)
- It was recommended a committee be established to look at the scholarship idea in more detail. For example, there may be a UofI minimum requirement of \$5000/yr for 4 years. Engelgau and Williamson will pursue with UofI and serve as the committee for now.

C. Discussion of Proposed State SUAA dues schedule based on income, as proposed by State Exec Committee (re: Dollins' email of 5/4/12)

- A spreadsheet showing possible dues increases and revenue generated for the state organization was circulated by Williamson
- In general, the Exec Committee objects to the new dues proposal, which generates a large amount of revenue (as much as \$200k per yr) for a stated \$22k

shortfall in the present budget. Such a revenue plan would require clear indication of how those \$\$ would be expended.

D. Discussion of Implications of HJCRA 49 on retirees and current employees

- SURS is aware of HJCRA 49. At a gathering on May 8, Bill Mabe said there will be some kind of legal challenge to it.
- Some Exec Committee members will try to get a legal opinion of HJCRA 49 from either IGPA of the College of Law
- Another example of why we need a fast communications to the membership, i.e. to convey erupting proposals in Springfield and our related position(s).

IV. Reporting Items

A. **Membership:** In Palumbo's absence, Hunt conveyed a net gain of 2 in membership; 17 gained and 15 lost, for April.

B. **Legislative Committee/Political Action (Rugg, Satterthwaite, Schoell):** Springfield these days has been described a "boiling caldron of proposed and potential changes to pensions & benefits". The Governor has submitted a proposal on pensions; house Republican leader Cross has a proposal on health care reforms. In yet another, HB4996 outlines new requirements for retirees who return to work for a state entity.

Bids for the state's health care contracts are due May 17; don't know when we will hear the results. Interested parties should follow the SUAA website to stay informed on pension/benefit related activity in Springfield.

C. **Communications Committee (Engelgau):**

the SUAA – UIUC chapter website had over 1000 hits in April. (That's a first) It appears we can use the SURS retiree list for SUAA mailings at little to no cost. Committee intends to send an email to the attendees of the April 1 pre-retirement conference recounting the benefits of SUAA membership.

D. **Newsletter (Loeb)**

The newsletter has a 9 week publishing schedule, hence the first articles for the Fall edition will be due in August. We need items for the newsletter.

E. **Benefits Committee (Beastall, D'Arcy):**

The scheduled Survivor Assistance meeting was held as intended. [*Exec Committee participants?*] A letter was received requesting assistance with medical payments. Engelgau will forward to the Benefits Committee.

V. New Business

-none

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM. Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, June 13, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Board Room.