

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
**Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room**  
**<http://www.suaa-ui.org>**  
**Minutes for November 12, 2014**

**Attending:** Mary Beastall, Pam Cler, Tom Conry, Athalia Hunt, Jane Loeb, Mark Netter, Bob Rich, Terry Ruprecht, Steve Rugg, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Ginny Waaler, Ron Webbink, Bill Williamson

### **I. President's Report**

- A. Call to Order was issued by President Terry Ruprecht at 1:31 p.m.
- B. Approval of minutes for October 8, 2014 was moved and seconded (Rich, Waaler) then passed.
- C. Review of schedule of meetings:
  - (1) Exec Committee Meetings 2014-15: December 10, January 14, February 11.
  - (2) Retirement Planning Conference: Feb. 21, 2015, I Hotel.
  - (3) General Membership Meeting: TBA, April 12 or 26

D. President Ruprecht shared a thank you note from former treasurer Gerald Brighton for the chapter membership and certificate of appreciation provided upon his retirement. He also noted that Marcia Reed (a member of the Parkland Chapter who also maintains a membership in ours) had agreed to serve as a director for the last meeting and to vote with us. Thus she requires reimbursement for her meeting registration.

### **II. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Webbink noted that a recently cashed CD is responsible for a positive cash balance. Acceptance of the report was moved and seconded (Schoell, Rugg), and the report was accepted.  
*NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please have it sent to Ron Webbink's on-campus address (103 Astronomy, 1002 W. Green, MC221, Urbana, IL. 61801), so that the bill can be paid promptly. E-mail: rwebbink@illinois.edu.*

### **III. Action Items**

- A. Report on Directors' meeting at ISU: Terry Ruprecht reported that none of the votes on key issues had been close. Among these, a motion to withdraw funding for the parliamentarian was defeated. It was noted that a police presence had disturbed some members. This practice first arose with the last meeting, at which tense constitutional issues were debated. A vote not to increase the budget without a strategic plan lost, although the proposed budget had not been available until that morning. The absence of a strategic plan remains an important issue. A small dues increase that will generate about \$18000 is thought to be insufficient, given increased workload and continuing failure to set aside a reserve. Bill Williamson commented on discussion of SUAA expanding lobbying for higher ed in general; EC discussion included concern that the state office is already spread thin without taking this on.
- B. SUAA legal actions: Terry Ruprecht commented on an excellent report from Maduff at the recent directors' meeting, in which he warned that the fight over pensions and health costs will continue for a long time into the future.
- C. SUAA Legal Fund and SUAA Action fund: The solicitation for the Action fund apparently did quite well, so that fund is solvent. There has not been a report on the current status of the Legal fund, however, and the concern exists that it is low. One hope is that members will contribute some of the the health cost repayments by the state to this fund. Steve Rugg reported that 22% of members have given, with considerable variation across chapters. UIUC stands at 27%, with

70% of college of DuPage members contributing. Of \$389,000 total contributions, UIUC has contributed \$70,000.

- D. Member request for support of retroactive benefits for same sex spouse: Now that same sex marriage is permitted in Illinois, a chapter member has requested SUAA support in extending spousal benefits retroactively to married same-sex couples who were not legally able to have been married at the time of retirement. Discussion focused on policy concerning spousal benefits extended to partners, and Terry Ruprecht plans to follow up.

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

- A. Membership: In Barbara Hartman's absence due to illness, Terry Ruprecht reported that at the end of October membership was 2076, up from 2061 in September. This includes 25 new members, with a few lost to dropped or cancelled memberships (net of rejoiners). There were no deaths in October. The Employee Expo was very well attended, and Rick Schoell reported that Bill Williamson had interested a large number of people in joining SUAA. Bill Williamson suggested that a SUAA presence at the annual event held by the campus to honor long term employees could be useful. Another possibility is email solicitation. Terry Ruprecht will pursue this.
- B. Legislative Committee/Political Action: Rick Schoell reported on the composition of the gubernatorial transition team, which includes Governor Edgar, Chapin Rose, and Chancellor Wise among others. He and Steve Rugg reported that the IGPA pension proposal has already been provided to the transition team. Meantime, Rick Schoell is making visits to our legislators, which he expects to finish by the end of the year. Steve Rugg commented on the division of opinion within statewide SUAA membership on legislative positions, e.g., might SUAA back some form of revenue enhancement. He proposed that while the state group may be too divided to work *for* something as opposed to *against* proposals, perhaps the local chapter could find legislative possibilities to endorse.
- C. Communications Committee: Nothing to report. Terry Ruprecht called for ideas about non-EC members who might be interested in working on this committee.
- D. Spring Meeting: Ginny Waaler will check on hotel availability on April 12 and 26. Program possibilities included someone from the governor's office, a panel of legislators, UI's new president, Bob Easter, and Jim Edgar. Low attendance at the Fall meeting was noted.
- E. Fall Newsletter: Thanks and congratulations were offered to Pam Cler.
- F. Benefits Committee: Mary Beastall noted changes in the United Health plan, e.g. 85% rather than 90% coverage of approved costs.

#### **V. New Business**

- A. Terry Ruprecht indicated he has received a box of archival material from Bill Stallman, to be placed in our storage room in the Stock Pavilion. Bill Williamson reported that he and Mary Beastall have been cleaning out duplicate material unneeded archivally. Rick Schoell commented on the need to update our fact sheet (website). He will send it around for comments.

**VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting.** Meeting adjourned at 2:51 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 10, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.