

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room
<http://www.suaa-ui.org>
Minutes for January 14, 2015

Attending: Mary Beastall, Pam Cler, Tom Conry, Barbara Hartman, Athalia Hunt, Terri Palumbo, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Ginny Waaler, Ron Webbink, Bill Williamson

I. President's Report

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Terry Ruprecht at about 1:32 p.m. He discussed briefly and circulated a recent article in the Wall Street Journal about the national pension crisis.
- B. A motion was made and passed to approve the minutes for the December 10, 2014 meeting. [NOTE: The April 12 date "confirmed" for the Spring General Membership Meeting at the December Policy Committee meeting was in error. As noted below, the Meeting is scheduled for April 26.]
- C. Review of schedule of meetings:
 - (1) Executive Committee Meetings, 2015: February 11, March 11, April 8.
 - (2) Retirement Planning Conference: February 21, 2015, I Hotel.
 - (3) General Membership Meeting: April 26, I Hotel.

II. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Ron Webbink discussed the Treasurer's Report regarding both the activity in December and the activity for the 2014 year. There were no exceptional activities during December. For the year 2014, the checking balance increased from \$53,794 to \$59,850. The principal extraordinary item was the disbursement of \$13,000 to the SUAA Legal Fund. A motion was made and passed to accept the report. *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. **Purchase of Publishing Software for Newsletter.** Pam Cler reported that she looked into the possibility of improving the preparation of the Newsletter by purchasing the appropriate software for "in-house" use. This would expedite the production of the final draft and reduce the effort for (and charges from) UpClose for the final preparation. Cler's recommendation as a "best buy" was PagePlus8X for \$120 along with the User Guide (\$20) and Resource Guide (\$20) for which she thought a 25% discount would be possible. The suggestion was received enthusiastically and a motion to authorize her to make this purchase was made and passed.
- B. **Updates on Court Cases and Appeals.** Regarding the repayment of retiree insurance premiums (the Kanerva vs. Weems case), Tom Conry reported that there would be another hearing on the amount to be paid to the attorneys in the case. The current estimate of when repayments to retirees and survivors might start is this spring. Regarding the appeal of Judge Belz's decision that Public Act 98-599 is unconstitutional and void, arguments have been turned in. According to Conry, a major argument by the Attorney General concerns the need to preserve the police powers of the state.
- C. **Status of Legal Fund.** No recent fund raising activities have occurred though there had been suggestions that a solicitation be coordinated with the annuity increases from the AAI. Conry noted that one uncertainty is the share that our legal team will get from the Kanerva settlement.

IV. Reporting Items

- A. **Membership Report.** Ruprecht circulated a copy of the monthly membership report from Barbara Hartman showing an increase in December of seven members (16 added, 9 dropped) to a total of 2129.
- B. **Membership Activities.** Bill Williamson reported that he had provided copies of the SUAA brochure to a staff member at the U of I Employees Credit Union who was willing to pass them out to attendees at a retirement planning conference on January 13. It was clear that we needed a better document to hand out in such situations. Rick Schoell and Stever Rugg will see about finding copies of the one-page document we used at the October 21 Employee Expo. Williamson will contact the State Office concerning what they might be able to provide.
- C. **Retirement Planning Conference.** Athalia Hunt indicated that the organizers would be willing to include in the packet information about SUAA that we provided (400 copies would be needed). This should be provided by February 7, two weeks prior to the conference.
- D. **Legislative Position Statement.** Schoell and Rugg discussed the draft of this document. It was well received with the suggestion that the title be “stronger” to emphasize the importance of the points being made. It is planned that the final draft will appear in the Annuitant and on the Chapter web page.
- E. **Legislative Actions.** Helen Satterthwaite reported on her meeting with Representative Ammons to inform her about SUAA. There will be a follow-up to provide more detail. Conry indicated that he would be willing to initiate the contacts with Scott Bennett, the new state senator for the 52nd district. Each legislator will be made aware of the plans for the Spring General Meeting. Schoell noted the potential importance of the University of Illinois Caucus as a means of elevating the presence of the University in the state capital. It is a bi-partisan group in both chambers whose principal members are alumni or (to be added later) parents of alumni or students at the University. Rugg and Schoell noted that there were new members of the Office of Governmental Relations whom they hadn’t met yet.
- F. **Spring Meeting Planning.** The planning for the meeting (room, refreshments, etc.) is complete. We are still working on the composition of the legislative panel. It was suggested that we invite President-elect Killeen and perhaps the new Assistant Director of Governmental Relations to attend. There was a brief discussion of who might be the speaker in the fall. Suggestions included President Killeen and the new Director of SURS.
- G. **Newsletter Planning.** Cler reminded us that she had sent the production schedule in a December email. The deadline for all copy to be in her hands is February 27. [NOTE: A copy of her production schedule appears below.]
- H. **Nominating Committee.** Ruprecht will be setting up the nominating committee to select individuals to be candidates for 2015-2018 terms on the Executive Committee.

V. **New Business:** There was no new business

VI. **Adjournment and Next Meeting.** Meeting adjourned at about 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.

PRODUCTION SCHEDULE: Spring 2015 Annuitant (per Pam Cler, December 17, 2014 email)

2/13/2015	Call for articles
2/27/2015	Deadline for all Copy to Pam
3/6/2015	Edits/production w/UpClose
3/27/2015	Newsletter to Mailing Center
4/3/2015	Newsletter to Post Office
4/10/2015	Members to receive newsletter
4/26/2015	Spring Meeting