

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
<http://www.suaa-ui.org>  
**Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room**  
**Minutes for November 8, 2017**

**Attending:** William Adams, Mary Beastall, Pam Cler, Barbara Hartman, Kathleen Holden, Athalia Hunt, Katharine Kral, Carol Livingstone, Penny Nigh, Robert Rich, Steve Rugg, Rick Schoell, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Susan Trippiedi, Ron Webbink, H. F. Williamson, Rick Winkel

**I. Call to Order:** Winkel called the meeting to order at about 1:37 p.m.

**II. Approval of minutes for October 11, 2017:** The minutes were amended to include the attendance of Susan Trippiedi and the correction of the spelling of Webbink in VI, C. The minutes were approved as amended.

**III. Review of meeting schedule:** No additional meetings were added to those presented. These were:

- A. Executive Committee Meeting for 2017: December 13
- B. Executive Committee Meetings for Spring, 2018: February 14, March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13
- C. 2018 Big 10 Retirees Conference: August 3-5, 2018 (Penn State)
- D. 2019 Big 10 Retirees Conference: August 2-4, 2019 (UIUC)

**IV. President's Report:**

**A. Report.** Winkel presented an outline to start his President's report for the meeting drawing upon his President's report at the Fall Chapter Meeting. The key was his emphasis on the importance of continuously tracking pension and healthcare benefits issues, state funding, and other related concerns so that we can take active steps to educate and inform legislators, executive officers, and other policymakers (and our members) about these issues. We should lobby to oppose legislation that would harm our members and support legislation that will make pension and healthcare benefits stronger. He passed out three documents as part of this proposal. The first was a report on the "Tier 3" Pension Plan prepared by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. The second was an article from the Chicago Tribune on efforts by Governor Rauner to lobby Congress to give states like Illinois the power to change public employee pension benefits. The third was an IGPA proposal for "Six Simple Steps" to reform SURS.

**B. University's Position.** Winkel noted the importance of understanding our priorities and whether or not they agreed with those of the University. Adams reported on his conversation with Avijit Ghosh, UI Interim CFO, on the pension situation. The University is waiting for the results of the SURS efforts to develop the plan, submit it to the IRS for approval, and incorporate it into the SURS system.

**C. Pension Working Group.** The final part of Winkel's outline was the proposal to establish a Pension Working Group along with the Charge to that group. He proposed as members Adams, Rich, Rugg, Schoell, and Winkel. A motion to set up this group was made, seconded, and approved. One task of the group will be to prepare an agenda for the next meeting with Ghosh.

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Webbink presented the Treasurer's report for activity in October, 2017 and for the year to date through that month. There was a decrease of \$3065 in the checking account for the month due principally to the expenses of the fall Annuitant. For the year, the account is up over \$4300. One of the CDs at First Bank & Trust was rolled over to a seven-month CD expiring in May, 2018. He also noted that the reimbursement for the Campus Charity Drive insert in the Fall Annuitant had been received and would be part of the November statement. A motion to accept the report was made, seconded, and approved.

*NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please have it sent to Ron Webbink at his office address: (Dept. of Astronomy), 1002 W Green, M/C 221, Urbana, IL 61801-3074.*

## **VI. Action/Discussion Items**

- A. Report on Fall Chapter Meeting.** There was a brief discussion of some of the problems that arose in publicizing the meeting, the attendance of legislators, and the topics covered by the principal speaker.
- B. Report on Fall State Directors Meeting.** Hartman, Rich, and Williamson attended. There were no significant issues on which to report. There was concern over the ability of the state organization to coordinate on lobbying the legislature given the debate on some of the items in the proposed SUAA 2018 Legislative Platform, particularly the one concerning whether or not to support a partial tax on retirement incomes.
- C. Decision on January Executive Committee meeting on January 10, 2019.** For now, no meeting is scheduled for January. A final decision will be made at the December meeting of the Executive Committee.
- D. Report on Status of Chapter Web Site.** Livingstone reported that communication had been established with the webmaster once again. It was agreed that Livingstone would be the contact person for all web-related issues.
- E. Planning for Spring Chapter Meeting.** The agenda for the meeting will include a speaker or speakers and the annual election of members of the Executive Committee. Holden suggested that Wendy Rogers, Professor, Department of Kinesiology and Community Health, would be an excellent speaker. There was consensus that Holden and the rest of Programming Committee proceed on planning for the meeting including contacting Professor Rogers and setting up a tentative date in April. Once a date is chosen, Trippiedi will work on arranging for the room. Rich and others on the Legislative Committee will work on the possibility of also having a panel presentation on legislative issues such as the implications of any tax legislation being proposed this spring.
- F. Planning for 2019 Big 10 Retirees Conference at UIUC.** Rugg noted that Professor Rogers would also be a good potential speaker for the Conference. This reflects the decision that the Conference will focus less on operational issues for the retiree associations and more on “large scale” issues affecting retirees. This would parallel the approach taken during the 2008 Conference that we hosted. The members of the Committee reported on a contact from a planner from the Office of Continuing Education concerning the services that Office provides for those hosting conferences. Rugg will contact that person to get more details on what they provide and the costs of that service.

## **VII. Reporting Items**

- A. Membership:** Nigh reported that our membership fell from 1908 to 1900 individuals as a result of the loss of nine members, six due to deaths, and the gain of one member.
- B. Legislative Committee:** The report from this Committee was part of the President’s Report.
- C. Communications Committee/Newsletter:** Livingstone reminded the group to visit and contribute to the Chapter’s Facebook Page.
- D. Benefits Committee:** Williamson reported briefly on the October meeting of the Senate’s Faculty/Staff Benefits Committee and the fall SURSMAC meeting. Beastall reported again on the issues that have arisen during the current CMS benefits choice period.

## **VIII. New Business.** There was no new business.

**IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting.** The meeting adjourned at about 2:50 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, December 13 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.