

**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
**Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room**  
**Minutes for November 14, 2018**

**Web site: [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org)**

**Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/SUAA.UIUC/>**

**Attending:** Bill Adams, Kathleen Holden, Wynn Korr, Penny Nigh, Bob Rich, Steve Rugg, Helen Satterthwaite, Susan Trippiedi, Ron Webbink, Rick Winkel, Pam Cler, Katharine Kral, Rick Schoell, Bill Williamson

**Guests:** Melinda Carr, Lucy Rich

**I. Call to Order:** Winkel called the meeting to order at about 1:34 p.m. and asked for introductions. Williamson introduced Melinda Carr, a chapter member who is the new co-chair of the State Membership Committee.

**II. Approval of minutes: September 12, 2018 & October 10, 2018:** Motion to approve minutes was made by Rich, seconded by Adams, and approved unanimously.

**III. Review of meeting schedule:** Winkel reviewed the schedule and noted that there are no changes.

- A. Executive Committee Meetings, Fall, 2018: December 12.
- B. Executive Committee Meetings, Spring 2019: January 9 (tentative), February 13, March 13, April 10, May 8, & June 12.
- C. Spring Chapter Meeting: date to be determined
- D. 2019 Annual State Directors Meeting: June 27-28, 2019
- E. 2019 Big 10 Retirees Conference: August 2-4, 2019 (UIUC)

**IV. President's Report:**

**A. Report.** Winkel indicated that there was no formal report

**B. Comments:** The new anticipated bipartisan approach and potential changes in legislative landscape, stemming from election results and change in Springfield could be seen (from vantage point of Higher Ed) as a reason for optimism. The involvement on the transition teams of such individuals as Lt. Gov. Elect Juliana Stratton (who worked for IGPA), Christian Mitchell, Sol Flores, Ralph Martire, and James Edgar is a reason for optimism. He feels there is a strong likelihood within the first 100 days for capital development.

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Webbink presented the Treasurer's for activity in October 2018. For the month of October, there was a decrease of \$3,400 in the checking account. The disbursements were for the newsletter (of which 40% will be reimbursed for the CCFD insert by the university) and the iHotel for the Fall Chapter Meeting conference space. A motion to accept the report was made by Adams, seconded by Rich, and approved unanimously.

*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 from October 28, 2018:** Williamson provided draft of the meeting summary for the website and spring Annuitant.<sup>1</sup> Well attended meeting, over 100 attendees. Good panel discussion. Attendees' comments and questions showed high level of interest. Low-income retiree asked to not forget that group. It was agreed that we should emphasize what the average income for SURS annuitants is to offset the publicity about the highest annuities being paid. This would help

SURS make the public more aware of this information. SUAA members should be thick-skinned for comments we may receive. Adams goal is to have an interactive dialog. Adams also mentioned a comment from a participant was that this Fall Chapter meeting was the best one she's ever attended. These efforts will help SUAA change public opinion and increase our chances of including more current employees. These will be part of the decision about the program for the spring meeting.

**B. Report on Fall State Directors Meeting from October 30, 2018:** Williamson provided a summary of the meeting. The highlight for him was the report on "How Did We Get Here" by Kent Redfield which will be on the chapter website. Of particular concern was the discussion of the potential liability for those chosen as Directors for SUAA. There is no liability insurance for the Directors, only for the State Executive Committee. Winkel and Williamson will find out who are currently "official" UIUC Directors and what their liability might be. The most likely option will be to remove all of our Directors until we find out more about the potential new leadership structure.

**C. Decision on January Executive Committee meeting on January 9, 2019:** Decision made *not* to hold a session on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Legislation committee may use this date, Winkel will discuss with committee.

**D. Selection of new Newsletter Editor:** No members received any interested parties for this vacancy as of November 14. Winkel will reach out to Livingstone to see if she is still interested. Cler volunteered to train/assist as needed.

**E. Planning for Spring Chapter Meeting:** Potential dates were discussed noting that it usually occurs in April, between Ebert Festival and the marathon. This year this would most likely mean April 14 or April 28 (preferable particularly since Easter is April 21). Trippiedi will check with iHotel on those dates and the possibility of reserving a larger room. Since we are in between election years, we could invite legislators to serve on panel. This is will members a chance to interact. Some suggestions are: Jim Nolan, Kent Redfield, Pritzker's committee, Ralph Martire or Jim Edgar. Newly elected legislators might draw a larger audience. Winkel will talk to Edgar and mentioned that the later date would probably be better for Edgar to participate. The earlier we can announce the speaker(s), the bigger the crowd is likely to be.

**F. Planning for 2019 Big 10 Retirees Conference at Illinois:** It was noted that the CITL contract for registration services requires an insurance clause of \$3M. Winkel went to campus legal and met with Scott Rice to consider waiving the liability clause. He is checking with Risk Managers to see if clause can be deleted. Kral is checking on the type of organization SUAA is currently, that is if we are considered an "official" part of the University or not. If this clause cannot get waived may we may consider doing own registration or purchasing insurance. Committee is meeting today. Adams spoke with Deanna Bagger, who mentioned President Killeen will be out of town and asked Barb Wilson and her husband to host instead. They will do all the set-up's and send SUAA the bill. The committee just needs to provide the guest list. Rugg will call Tom Brown re: insurance price.

## VII. Reporting Items

**A. Membership:** September is down four members, from 1826 to 1822, with three new members, one drop and six deceased. Williamson likes new format of membership report. He indicated that Nigh, Carr, and he would be meeting later today to work on recruitment plans. We have proposed to the state office that they provide a program by which we can waive the chapter portion of the dues for new members. He repeated his charge to each individual on the Leadership Group to recruit at least one new member.

**B. Legislative Committee:** Will meet today after regular meeting. Discuss/ outline SURS reform/ address issues. Make list of position we're taking and give to SUAA at State Chapter. They have asked for a White paper (SUAA-UIUC is calling it a position paper). Will be available to others afterwards if wanting to speak with legislators or use as an educational tool for those interested. The committee should also share it with UIUC senior leadership. Promised at fall meeting that it would be put out for members to react to on website. Schoell suggested getting it out sooner before revenue is all earmarked.

**C. Communications Committee/Newsletter/Website:** The webmaster report<sup>2</sup> provided by Livingstone is attached.

**D. Benefits Committee:** Kral noted that Medicare mailings that are mailed to people that are not eligible are confusing and suggested thinking of a way to clarify in the future for people. People about to retire have been told the wrong information about Medicare B and are not aware that if you enroll in the Prescription D program, they will not be eligible for the Advantage program. Calling is not helpful. Trail closing several weeks before federal – doesn't make sense and adds to the confusion. The committee should look into this issue. Williamson reported briefly on the most recent Senate Benefits Committee meeting. SURS is working on a number of issues including implementing the proposed buyout plans for retiring tier I members and vested inactive members. It was noted that since these are intended to lower the costs to the state, it was difficult to see the benefits to the members.

**E. Program:** Regarding the spring meeting, Holden requested that Winkel let her know once speakers and date were lined-up.

#### VIII. New Business. None

**IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at about 2:30 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.

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<sup>1</sup> Attachment: "SUAA-UIUC Fall Chapter Meeting, October 28, 2018"

<sup>2</sup> Attachment: "Webmaster Report"

### *SUAA-UIUC Fall Chapter Meeting, October 28, 2018*

*H. F. Williamson*

The 2018 fall meeting of the SUAA-UIUC Chapter was held on Sunday afternoon, October 28 at the iHotel. There was an excellent turnout to hear the panel discussion from the members of the Chapter's Ad Hoc Committee on Pensions moderated by Chapter President Rick Winkel. The members of the group were Bill Adams, Steve Rugg, and Rick Schoell.

Among the questions addressed were:

- What is the role of our chapter in the legislative process?
- How important is it for our chapter to be proactive as advocates, or should we wait and see what happens in the legislative process and react?
- What is the bond-financed buyouts of pension benefits that passed in the spring session (in the BIMP bill), and are there concerns about how it might be implemented?
- What advice is there about reported efforts to change the Illinois Constitution?

Following the panel presentation, there were reports from members of the Chapter's Benefits and Membership Committees.

Deb Stone discussed the following topics regarding member benefits:

- The TRAIL open enrollment period
- The status of the dispute between AFSCME and the State of Illinois (CMS) regarding health insurance and benefits.
- The change in the Money Purchase formula effective July 2, 2019
- The status of the current claim payment delays

She also noted that the "old" staff retiree I cards (the ones with the white background) will expire on February 1, 2019. A new card can be obtained at no cost (and quite efficiently according to colleagues who have made

the replacement) at the ID Center on the first floor of the Illini Union Bookstore at the corner of Wright and Daniel Streets.

H. F. (Bill) Williamson reported for the membership committee. He noted that there has been a gradual decline in membership at both the state and chapter level. The membership committee has set a goal of having each current member recruit at least one new member during the coming year and hopes that everyone attending will help us achieve that goal.

Those attending also were asked to recognize the outstanding contributions of outgoing Newsletter Editor Pam Cler. She has done an excellent job of continuing the tradition of service in this position. Rick Winkel asked that anyone attending who might be interested in this position or who knew of someone else who might be to contact him with that information.

## Webmaster Report

November 13, 2018

1. Website has been updated so that all pages are now compliant with HTML standards – previous version might not have rendered properly on all browsers.
2. The Benefits page has been significantly reorganized and enhanced; more information is now available about non-health related benefits such as discounts with the I-card or special deals available for hotels for retirees as well as current employees.
3. More graphics images have been added to vary the appearance of the pages.
4. Currently, we only list a US mailing address for contacting SUAA-UI. The annual cost of our domain name (suaa-ui.org) includes the ability to create dummy forwarding email accounts with the domain which can then be used on public documents instead of our personal email accounts. For example, I set up an email for [CarolL@suaa-ui.org](mailto:CarolL@suaa-ui.org) which will forward all emails to my own private email account. I can set up accounts for all of you with your first name and last initial @suaa-ui.org, for example, and then we can publish those email addresses when one is needed on a website or on Facebook. You will not need to check an additional mailbox for incoming mail – it will be forwarded to your usual email. I will want us to discuss this at the December meeting when I return; in the meantime, if anyone wants me to set up an email for them, please let me know.
5. Work has begun on the Big Ten Conference website. A prototype is available at <http://http://www.suaa-ui.org/conference.htm>. Please send Carol suggestions and fill in the details as they are available. Currently have the following page structure:
  - a) Home page – general welcome, with the following subpages
    - Registration & cost
    - Nearby Attractions
    - Contacts
  - b) Schedule
  - c) Accommodations
    - Conference hotel
    - Other nearby hotels
  - d) Directions
    - By Car
    - By Air

As always, updates for the content on the website are very welcome, and please feel free to post on the Facebook page when you have an item of general interest (or ask me to post if you don't "do" Facebook.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Livingstone

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