

**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
**Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room**  
**Minutes for March 13, 2019**  
**Web site: [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org)**  
**Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/SUAA.UIUC/>**

**Attending:** Bill Adams, Carol Livingstone, Penny Nigh, Bob Rich, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Winkel, Mary Beastall, Steve Rugg, Kathy Kral, Bill Williamson, Melinda Carr, Kathleen Holden, Wynne Korr, Sue Trippiedi, Barb Hartman

Guests: None

**I. Call to Order:** Winkel called the meeting to order at about 1:31 p.m.

**II. Approval of minutes: February 13, 2019:** Motion to approve minutes was made by Rich, seconded by Livingstone, and approved unanimously.

**III. Review of meeting schedule:** Winkel reviewed the schedule and noted one change to the Executive Committee Meetings: the tentative addition of a meeting in July .

- A. Executive Committee Meetings for Spring, 2019: April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10 (tentative).
- B. Spring Chapter Meeting: April 28, 2019
- C. 2019 Annual State Directors Meeting: June 27-28, 2019
- D. 2019 Big 10 Retirees Conference: August 2-4, 2019 (UIUC)

**IV. President's Report:**

- A. **Report:** Opinion survey, what do we want to do and why it's important. (see attachment<sup>1</sup>)
- B. **Pension Reform Document:** Rugg and Rich developed a pension reform document. (see attachment<sup>2</sup>)
- C. **Retirement Planning Conference Presentation:** Winkel thanked Williamson, Carr, Livingstone, and Beastall for volunteering time at the booth during the conference.
- D. **Member Change:** Winkel noted that Creasey has resigned her position on the executive board. Winkel and Williamson met with Marissa Brewer, potential replacement for Creasey. Winkel will put forth nomination for Brewer to complete Creasey's term. Brewer's bio/ resume was shared with the committee. (see attachment<sup>3</sup>)
- E. **Program Duties:** A handout was provided to the committee with the duties for the chapter meetings and the Big Ten Conference. (see attachment<sup>4</sup>)

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Williamson presented the Treasurer's for activity in February 2019 on behalf of Webbink. For the month of February, there was a decrease of \$42 in the checking account. The disbursements were for the chapter and executive meetings and Big 10 Retirees conference. A motion to accept the report was made by Williamson, 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. **Selection to Fill Vacancy on Executive Committee (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2):** Winkel recommended Marissa Brewer to fill vacated term of Jennifer Creasey. Williamson commented on the talents she would bring to committee and noted she is willing and enthusiastic. A motion was made by Holden to nominate Brewer to fill the vacated term of Creasey, seconded by Adams, and approved unanimously. Williamson circulated the revised roster for review. Winkel will ask for

Brewer to contribute to the communications committee, noting legislative has several members already. Brewer should provide good networking and outreach connections with alumni.

- B. **Report on the Retirement Planning Conference:** Williamson thanked Carr, Beastall, Livingstone, Winkel and Hunt for their roles during the conference. Five people signed up for membership at conference. Williamson noted that the membership committee is looking into getting pens to use as promotional items for future events.
- C. **Report on Spring Annuitant:** Livingstone mentioned that everyone should have received a draft newsletter, the deadline for articles was last Sunday. She will change Creasey to Brewer in the membership list. Livingstone requested any last minute changes be mentioned before the meeting ends today, so the Annuitant can be send to printer this week.
- D. **Planning for Spring Chapter Meeting: Agenda, Publicity:** Announcement should be made in Annuitant regarding the legislative panel. Winkel noted that Bennett is confirmed, Rose is a maybe (depending on timing of family obligations), and Ammons will be out of town. No word on if Dan Caulkins is available yet or not; however, we should have three panelists. Winkel will ask Marin if Caulkins is not available. The speakers should remain listed in the Annuitant as “invited” even if they have declined. Another option is to take all names out and just say we’ve invited representatives from our local area. Names of speakers should be confirmed by April 10 to include in Eweek and webpage. Results of survey may be of interest depending of results from legislative committee meeting; however, it is not quite ready at the moment. Topics are broad and not asking for a specific position on something that may be confidential. We may reach beyond local representatives to keep a balance between chambers, it was noted that having a party balance is more important though. Andy Manar of Decatur was suggested. Williamson/ Livingstone to submit to Eweek. Winkel will finalize panel.
- E. **Planning for 2019 Big 10 Retirees Conference at UIUC:** The 2019 Big 10 Retirees Conference planning committee met earlier this week. Rugg mentioned how pleased and grateful he is for this committee. Professor Wendy Rogers has been confirmed as the primary speaker. There are some refinements needed in the schedule; however, it is coming together nicely. There was mention of possibly hosting a Friday night session, that way it will jumpstart the discussions early to help the weekend progress smoother. Suggest morning sessions and afternoon campus tours to show off works in progress. Ideas include: the visualization lab (Donna Cox), Beckman, and the Robots/ Life Home (Wendy Rogers). Committee is looking to see how else CITL can help and the best way to get the job done without overburdening anyone. This committee will come to the executive board with any suggestions and also requests volunteers as there are lots of tasks to be completed. Williamson is preparing a list of the individuals we will invite from the other Big 10 retiree organizations. The conference theme will be: Reinventing Retirement – What’s the one thing you’re doing to reinvent retirement and one thing you would like to do?”
- F. **Report on Status of UIUC SUAA Chapter Office in Stock Pavilion:** Adams hasn’t been able to speak with President Easter due to travel. Williamson and Beastall will get into building and see what is in there and create an inventory list to help determine if this space is really needed any longer as the new dean may have other plans for that building. It was suggested that an alternative to the current office would be a smaller space for storage perhaps in another building such as the Soybean Lab.

## VII. Reporting Items

- A. **Membership:** Williamson provided the membership reports. February membership was up by five from 1812 to 1817 with sixteen new and eleven drops, six of whom were deaths, two stopped dues deduction. Williamson passed around list of these individuals to thank those who recruiting the new members and to remind those who know those who dropped to contact them. We should encourage people to dues deduction. Carr mentioned the state membership contest which includes submitting a letter describing the Chapter’s membership activities. Carr noted that SUAA will celebrate the 50th

anniversary of its founding this spring. She will bring this up at the next meeting of the State Executive Committee meeting.

- B. **Legislative Committee:** The committee will be meeting after today's Executive Committee meeting. It was noted that labor unions are provided for the proposal for a graduated income tax made by Governor Pritzker. One question of interest, of course, is how they plan to treat retirement income.
- C. **Report on the Survey.** Livingstone provided a summary of the results from the survey. There were 1200 SUAA members that received the survey and all current employees were notified as well via Eweek. We received 540 responses about half of whom were SUAA members. Most of these members were in Tier 1 so we should be sure to target Tier 2 employees for membership campaigns. The answers were somewhat predictable with worry about pensions being the top concern. It was interesting to note that less than half of all groups opposed taxing pensions and Social Security income of higher income recipients. The answers were presented broken down by pension plan, by residence, and by whether a current employee or not. One of the most difficult questions was number 7 asking the respondent to rank five policies. It also seemed that number 6 on the responsibility of universities for employer share of pension costs was not clear. Livingstone suggested that everyone should read the comments and noted that no statistical tests have been performed yet. She also felt that there was a good response which added to the credibility of the survey. There was a discussion of what the next steps should be. They could include a thank you note for completing the survey and a deeper analysis of the results. Winkel suggested putting together a summary paper and recommendations now that we have a better idea of the viewpoints of our members. It was noted that we should discuss this at the Spring Membership meeting as we need to be as transparent as possible with the results. Livingstone also noted that she had notified the State office about the survey when she requested the mailing list and that the Legislative Committee had offered to share it with her ahead of time.
- D. **Communications Committee/Newsletter/Website:** Livingstone reiterated that any changes or additions to the newsletter need to be made today, in order to get it to the printer this week. She noted that there was a bit of a learning curve to putting the newsletter together; however, Cler was very helpful. Winkel thanked Livingstone for taking on this task. Livingstone let the group know that the website is updated as she receives information and will also post to Facebook. Livingstone requested a copy of the Big 10 Conference program when finalized.
- E. **Benefits Committee:** Beastall, thanked Livingstone for the article on Medicare. Williamson discussed the report he had send by email on the March UIUC Senate Faculty-Staff Benefits Committee meeting. They discussed a report entitled "A 'Pension Crisis' Mentality Won't Help." (See attachment<sup>5</sup>). Continually talking about it is a deterrent for prospective employees coming to Illinois, we need a thoughtful approach. There was a discussion on consolidating pensions, currently there are 639 different local pensions in Illinois.
- F. **Program:** Holden requested another member to serve on the Programs Committee now that Trippiedi's term is ending; it is especially important in planning for the Big 10 Conference. Korr volunteered to assist with planning for the conference. Trippiedi is happy to help whoever will take over the Program Committee.

#### VIII. New Business. None

**IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting:** The meeting adjourned at about 2:48 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room. Motion to adjourn was made by Adams, seconded by Livingstone, and approved unanimously.