

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee, August 14, 2019
Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room

Minutes

Web site: www.suaa-ui.org

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

Attending: Bill Adams, Mary Beastall, Marissa Brewer, Melinda Carr, Kathleen Holden, John Marlin, Bob Rich (by phone), Steve Rugg, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Ron Webbink, H. F. Williamson, Rick Winkel.

I. Call to Order and Introductions: Winkel called the meeting to order and a majority of the Executive Committee was attending at 1:48 p.m.

II. Approval of minutes for June 12, 2019: Motion to approve minutes was made by Adams, seconded by Marlin, and approved unanimously.

III. Review of meeting schedule:

- A. Executive Committee Meetings, Fall 2019: September 11, October 9, November 13, December 11.
- B. 2019 All Employee Expo (Illini Union Rooms A, B, C): October 17, 2019
- C. Fall Chapter Meeting: October 20, 2019
- D. Fall State House of Delegates Meeting: November 5, 2019
- E. Retirement Planning Conference: February 29, 2020

IV. President's Report:

- A. **Big 10 Retiree Conference:** Winkel noted the Big 10 Conference was well organized and received, educational, and showcased the U of I very well.
- B. **Vacancy on Executive Board:** Penny Nigh resigned because of new job responsibilities, and she recommended Donna Miller as a new candidate. Other candidates may also be recommended, and this item will be put on September's agenda to vote on a replacement.
- C. **Review of ByLaws:** The Bylaws Review Committee is moving forward with Carr, Adams, Winkel, Williamson, and Beastall.
- D. **Membership:** Winkel reminded all members to make sure they are current with SUAA membership dues.

V. Treasurer's Report: Webbink provided the Treasurer's Report covering activities from January 1, 2019 through July 31, 2019. Total disbursements recorded as of July 31 were \$3,610. He reported that not all expenses have come in yet for the Big 10 Retiree Conference (so far room rental, cost of insurance and other disbursements will be made). Rugg noted that Executive Committee members can submit bills to the treasurer for the organization to reimburse them. Members of the Executive Committee including Hartman and Williamson should be reimbursed. Carr does not want to be reimbursed. Everyone should have gotten a receipt automatically from the registration system. Rugg will send Webbink the list of individuals to be reimbursed and copy Carr on the message. A motion to accept the report was made by Adams, seconded by Marlin, and approved unanimously.

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

VI. Action/Discussion Items

A. Report on the 2019 Big 10 Retirees Conference August 2-4, 2019 at UIUC

Rugg noted the event was successful and beneficial with a strong planning committee including Williamson (continuity) and Holden (driving force behind much of the programming with connections to professors). All presenters were well received. People commented they learned a lot from Barbara Wilson's presentation. Two students performed from the Lyric Theater program. Two buses were used for the campus tour due to charter buses not being available. This year they are collecting feedback from everyone through a formal evaluation to complete the process. Winkel requested that the planning committee work on a summary of takeaways from the conference. Some ideas discussed for future programming included expanding HR relationship with SUAA, incorporating institutional advocacy activities, checking out other retirement organizations and websites about their programming, setting aside money for future planning, and ways to decrease conference costs. Expenses so far include dinner at Alumni Center \$900 (with 5% cut for catering), and overall expenses estimated to be \$12,000 to \$14,000 (minus \$4,000 revenue from us, and Chancellor promised \$3,000 – expecting less than \$10,000 to be disbursed from our treasurer). President Winkel was asked to send thank you notes to presenters.

B. Report on the 2019 Annual State Directors Meeting

Williamson reported a change in name was made for the SUAA organization structure from Directors to House of Delegates. What Directors used to do including approving the budget, now 12-15 people will manage the group. There was a lengthy discussion about this process. The exception is amendments to the proposed constitution which has to be approved (not reviewed or looked at). Everything except the budget (the budget will come to the House of Delegates for review). Our local chapter will need to review any new changes in state bylaws to take into account for our bylaws. ISU bylaws have more details about the relationship to the state organization represented in the chapter bylaws.

C. Selection to Fill Vacancy on Executive Committee (Bylaws, Article IV, Section 2)

Prior notice is not required according to the bylaws, and the Executive Committee can make the appointment. Donna Miller has been recommended as a replacement for Penny Nigh. Other recommendations for this vacancy will be considered at the September 11 meeting.

D. Fall State House of Delegates Meeting: November 5, 2019

Winkel encouraged more people to attend the Fall meeting. Our local chapter can have six voting members. Members who are planning to attend include Rich, Williamson, Winkel, and Carr.

E. Review of 2019-2020 Leadership Roster

A copy of the current Leadership Roster was included in the meeting packet. Members were asked to submit any changes or corrections to Williamson.

F. Planning for Fall Chapter Meeting: October 20, 2019

The date of the meeting is set as October 20, 2019, and the speaker will be SURS Executive Director Martin Noven. Further planning will take place at the next meeting.

G. Planning for Fall Annuitant

Holden will contact Livingstone for newsletter article deadlines.

H. Planning for Staffing the 2019 All Employee Expo: October 17, 2019

The Expo is scheduled from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Members to help with staffing include Williamson, Winkel, Brewer and Carr.

VII. Committee Reports

A. Membership: Carr, Hartman, Nigh, Williamson

Williamson shared the membership report. July membership is at 1772, down from 1779. There were three rejoins, seven losses were due to deaths and nine lapsed. Now SUAA UIUC is the second biggest chapter. He encouraged each member of the Leadership Committee to recruit at least one member this month. He is also seeking information from the state membership co-chairs on the activities of the membership contest winning chapters at the other four-year universities. Both he and Carr have access to the online spreadsheet.

Carr reported membership contest had nine entries. With 25 shirts available, the top five entries were selected based on percentage of membership increase including losses and activities. All entries were presented with certificates of participation. The Motto for 2019-2020 presented at the Annual Meeting: Each Member Reach One New Member and Each Chapter Try One New Thing. State membership co-chairs will be sending information out to Chapter Officers and posting highlights on the SUAA website. She proposed for the UIUC chapter to include a membership plan (drive or campaign) communicating through our newsletters and other campus media with a total goal of estimated membership this year, including losses to restore lost membership, and activities such as three or more sponsorships at employee expo and retirement planning events and a special recognition program for SUAA UIUC founders at the Spring meeting.

B. Legislative Committee: Adams, Korr, Rich, Rugg, Satterthwaite, Schoell, Winkel

Rich reported the state government is making proposals on pensions, and they are looking at a constitution convention but are not sure about it. Rich also noted SUAA needs to be opposed to a constitution convention. Winkel noted the Spring General Assembly will be coming January through May, and if something happens to affect our pensions it will be then. He will confirm deadlines for these dates. He is aware of the issue before the Governor and General Assembly but not aware of proposals. There was discussion about whether local pensions could turn up on the state level and once the conversation is opened up, it will be on the table for discussion. Winkel noted any contract changes would be important for current employees. Schoell noted watching consolidation of pensions with investments, City of Chicago, and appealing to our advocates who have said why benefits to the public system are beneficial to recruiting good people.

C. Communications Committee/Newsletter/Website: Brewer, Livingstone

No report.

D. Benefits Committee: Beastall, Stone, Williamson

Williamson noted the reports that, not too surprisingly, the pension buyout program for SURS (and two other state retirement systems) had fallen considerably short of the anticipated savings in its first year.

E. Program: Holden, Martin

No report.

F. Chapter Bylaws Review Committee: Williamson, Adams, Carr, Rich, Beastall

Mary Beastall's name should be added under Chapter Bylaws Review Committee.

Williamson reported on the proposed changes. For Article 1: keep our name as is, SUAA

UIUC. For Article II, Section 1: add the phrase "and work to strengthen the retirement system

for its current and future members" from the ISU document. For Article II, Section 3:

remove this section. There was further discussion about the reference to public institutions of

higher education in this section. For example, if we wanted to establish a scholarship program

(where appropriate it would support institutions of higher education) does this mean it has to

be here at this institution? Winkel noted Avijit Ghosh asked how we can help with higher

education. Proposed bylaw changes have been shared by email. Winkel inquired about

scheduling future meetings with the ByLaws Review Committee and then the Executive

Committee. The target date for completing the Bylaws review will be in time to present the

proposed revisions at the Spring Chapter Meeting.

VIII. New Business: Brewer noted an invitation will be coming soon for a Good Neighbor Reception hosted by Illinois Connection. The event will be held on October 7 at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Senator Scott Bennett and Representative Carol Ammons will be present.

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Adam, seconded by Brewer, and approved unanimously at about 3:14 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Melinda Carr, Secretary