

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Minutes for April 14, 2021 Zoom Meeting
Web site: www.suaa-ui.org
Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/SUAA.UIUC/>

Attending: William Adams, Marissa Brewer, Melinda Carr, Kathleen Holden, Wynn Korr, Carol Livingstone, John Marlin, Donna Miller, Deb Stone, H. F. Williamson, Ron Webbink.

I. Call to Order and Introductions: President Marlin called the meeting to order with a quorum present about 1:30 p.m.

II. Approval of minutes for March 10, 2021: final pending edits to be approved in May after sharing with Executive Committee for input from Secretary's reconstructed minutes.

III. Review of meeting schedule:

- A. Executive Committee Meetings, Spring, 2021: May 12, June 9, July 14 (TBD in May or June)
- B. Spring Chapter Meeting: April 25, 2021
- C. SUAA Annual Meeting: June 17-18, 2021
- D. Executive Committee Meetings, Fall, 2021: August 11, September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8.
- E. SUAA Fall Meeting: November 17, 2021 (updated on the state SUAA website)

IV. President's Report: Marlin

President Marlin noted the following:

- A meeting was held to get ready for the chapter meeting.
- News-Gazette article reported information from the state General Assembly on significant changes to the benefits system for firefighters that allows for the transfer of benefits (Tier 1 and Tier II). Chicago police are seeking the same benefits as firefighters. This change will open the door for other Tier II lobbying efforts.
- Monitoring future legislation for potential constitution amendment.

V. Treasurer's Report: Webbink

Webbink provided the report covering activities from January 1, 2021 through March 31, 2021. Two months contribution has been received and returned from state dues. Only expense was the spring newsletter. Due to COVID-19, our assets continue to grow with few expenditures. Adams moved to accept the report, Williamson seconded, and the motion was passed.

NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please send to Ron Webbink's home: 3407 Mill Creek Ct. Unit 4, Champaign, IL 61822

VI. Action/Discussion Items

A. Final Report on Spring Annuitant

The Annuitant was distributed in advance of the election and copies should have been received. There were several article contributions, and the COVID article was well received.

B. Final Planning for Spring Chapter Meeting:

1. Program

Action items included requesting the speakers slides, posting an update on the state SUAA website, and sending an announcement through Eweek.

Committee chairs are expected to make a presentation from membership (Williamson), legislative (Adams or representative), and benefits (Stone).

The Ihotel contact is holding a room for another several months in case we need it for a future event (a check has already been cut for a past event that was canceled due to COVID-19).

2. Election of Officers

Please contact Livingstone if anyone is aware of a proposed nomination from the floor to help the committee prepare a ballot if needed. Individuals will be elected for the 2020-2024 term.

3. Publicity: Eweek; SUAA State email; SUAA State website

A message will go out through Eweek a week before the meeting. In addition, there was discussion about sending an announcement to current membership through email and posting an update on the SUAA State website.

C. Selection of Nominating Committee for 2021-2022 Officers

The nominating committee for officers next year will include the following individuals: Livingstone, Korr and Williamson. Anyone interested in an officer's position should contact them.

VII. Reporting Items

A. Membership: Carr, Hartman, Williamson

There were 17 added memberships and 18 dropped memberships which brings our total number to 1692, as of March 31, 2021. In addition to the lapsed member campaign, Chapter Leadership was asked to help contact individuals from the submitted list of lapsed or canceled memberships to encourage their return.

Livingstone shared via email an example of a past letter to use for the lapsed member campaign. Extra membership brochures will be obtained from the state office to include in the mailing. The 50th Anniversary digital sticker from the State SUAA office (Debi Vaninger) can also be used for the letter. The Campus Printing Services on Gregory Drive will be contacted to help with printing, stuffing, and mailing of the envelopes.

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

Discussion items included recent activities in Springfield: receiving federal COVID-19 relief funds, borrowing from the federal emergency relief fund, and tax changes. In addition, we must continue to watch for any proposed pension legislation and how it may impact current employee benefits and Tier plans, SURS retirement plans, Windfall Elimination of Social Security, etc.

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

Updates are needed for email contacts due to error messages and that will need to be managed through the State office. The Annuitant has previously published an alert asking members to check with the state office if they are not receiving emails. The state SUAA office will use the spring Annuitant listing of deceased members to compare and update the current membership list.

D. Benefits Committee: Beastall, Stone, Williamson

The retirement planning conference was replaced this year with a staff voluntary planning program. SURS is conducting webinars for employees (insurance and lifetime annuity). There was discussion about the various options for retirement plans including 401K options and employees' understanding of those options. In addition, decisions regarding Medicare, Medicare Trail Advantage, and the importance of each member evaluating their situation in consultation with Central Management Services (CMS) to determine what plan is best for them.

E. Program: Holden, Miller

The speaker's presentation slides have been received. There may also be a brief planning session. The session will be opened about 1:00 p.m. if anyone wants to sign in early. If needed, the election will be postponed until after the committee report.

VIII. New Business

A. Publication Policy

A report will be made next month.

B. Long Range Planning

This topic was presented last year before the pandemic hit. A committee was set up and then everything shut down before it could be discussed. Adams will review and share information with the Executive Committee.

C. Status of Campus Office

Incoming mail related to memberships is forwarded to the SUAA Secretary currently from the UI President's Assistant. The Secretary forwards as appropriate including new memberships to the state SUAA office.

D. Other – (1) Steve Rugg is the chair of Big 10 group and will respond on behalf of our Chapter. Holden will follow up on information from the Big Ten group regarding the next meeting. (2) Martin Noven has stepped down as Chief Executive Officer of SURS and more information may be shared later during the upcoming SURSMACS meeting. (3) President Marlin indicated there may be hacking activity and everyone should be aware of any unusual requests coming through email.

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Williamson, seconded by Adams, and approved unanimously at 2:34 p.m. Next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 1:30 p.m.