

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Minutes for February 14, 2024
Web site: www.suaa-ui.org
Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/SUAA.UIUC/>

Executive Committee Attendees: Marissa Brewer, Tanya Gallagher, Wynne Sandra Korr, Vera Mainz, John Marlin, Debora McCall, Donald Uchtmann, H. F Williamson, Matt Wilson

Other Attendees: Carol Livingstone, Megan Pearson, Johna Van Behrens, Ron Webbink,

I. Call to Order.

President Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:32 pm.

II. Approval of minutes for January 10, 2024.

A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

III. President's Update.

There has been some movement regarding upcoming legislation. Marlin will update the committee under the Legislative Committee report.

IV. Treasurer's Report.

Webbink presented the report for the activity in January, 2024. He noted that for the year ending December, 2023, investments with Morgan Stanley made 4.5-5% on the funds invested. Expenses relating to the fall chapter meeting have been resolved and meeting expenses came to around \$2000. Given the low attendance at the meeting, the Committee should consider possible per capita expenses when planning future meetings. Webbink noted that the Chapter had not been paid for the advertisement of the Campus Charitable Fund Drive in the Fall *Annuitant*. Livingstone will pursue this matter. A motion to accept the reports was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

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

V. Action/Discussion Items.

A. Planning for Spring Chapter Meeting.

1. Date - April 28th; Place: I-Hotel. McCall reported that the Technology room has been reserved, from 12:30pm-6:30 pm, with the reception planned for 2 pm. The room has a capacity of 90. McCall thought we may need to ask for RSVP's in order to plan for the reception and specifically not overfill the room. The I-Hotel needs 30 days notice for catering and AV. McCall believes she can ask the State Office to add her email and request for an RSVP to her email. Some thought the RSVP might be a barrier to attend. The discussion brought out possible options for requesting an RSVP and not discouraging those who did not respond from attending. McCall and Wilson plus the Program Committee will talk off-line about how to deal with an RSVP. The plan was also to advertise in the UIUC EWeek, via the State Office, and other normal outlets used for publicity.
2. Program: Marlin sent invitations to the four area state legislators in early January. He has checked with their offices and they are all a "maybe." Marlin will continue to work with their offices. He made it clear that they could expect questions beyond the retirement/medical topic set for the meeting. No one said no, and there is definitely interest at the staff level. It is possible that even if someone agrees, we should be prepared to have no shows as the legislature will still be in session. Von Behrens asked if one or all couldn't attend, what would be our back up plan. Marlin thought we'd have people there. Marlin also noted that it might be useful to have someone from UIUC Facilities and Services to tell how campus is interacting with the two cities with respect to roads, traffic routing in the morning and afternoon rush "minutes." Wilson noted that he would invite the

new SUAA Executive Director to attend to be introduced and perhaps to present a brief talk during the Annual Meeting.

3. 2024-2027 Candidates for Executive Committee. Williamson gave the report from the nominating committee (Korr, Uchtmann, Williamson). He noted that four people are finishing their terms – Brewer, Korr, Stone, and Wilson. Brewer, Korr, and Stone are finishing their second term and not eligible for re-election. The committee should present nominees to this committee, with the deadline as needed for the newsletter. They present nominees to this committee for approval. They have three individuals, Matt Wilson, to serve 2nd term, and Melanie Loots and Michael Hirschi to serve their first terms. The motion was made to accept these three candidates. It was seconded and passed unanimously. The fourth candidate will be presented electronically as they are still looking for appropriate candidates. There is at least one more nominee needed to fill Mike Grossman's term, but that can be done later. Livingstone noted that the deadline for inclusion in the Spring *Annuitant* is February 28th.

VI. Standing Committee Reports.

- A. Legislative Committee: Adams, Brewer (Chair), Korr, Marlin, Rugg, Schoell, Winkel. See above for plans for spring meeting. Brewer has been contacted by Dick Simpson, a retired UIC faculty member. The UIC SUAA chapter has formed a legislative committee modeled on ours. They are having training for their group. Brewer believes that there could be possible collaborations with this group. Wilson, Livingstone, and Legislative Committee will discuss this off-line.
- B. Membership: Carr, Williamson (Chair), Pearson. Williamson reported a slight loss of members. If we know any of these lapsed members personally, he requested we send a personal email encouraging that individual to rejoin.
- C. Communications Committee/Newsletter/Website: Carr, Francis, Gallagher, Livingstone (Chair). The committee is planning for the Spring *Annuitant*. Livingstone sent out a list of article assignments, so please let her know if you are taking responsibility for any of the articles. Williamson volunteered to write up the short tribute for Linda Brookhart. Last spring we included an article about Faculty Staff Assistance and Well-Being Services office; Livingstone said that if the space is available she will include it.
- D. Benefits Committee: Stone (Chair), Williamson. No report.
- E. Program Committee: McCall, Wilson. See V.A, above.
- F. Long Range Planning Committee: Gallagher, Marlin, Uchtmann, Williamson, Wilson (Chair). No report.

VII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports.

Big 10 Retirement Association Committee: Francis, Williamson. Williamson reported that he had recently attended a Zoom meeting of leaders from most of the members of the Association. He reminded us that we are the outlier in the Association since we are a member of a state organization rather than a stand-alone group as is the case at the other Big 10 universities. Many of the other groups are also members of the Association of Retirement Organizations for Higher Education (AROHE). AROHE provides resources to retiree groups and holds an annual meeting. Williamson did not recommend joining AROHE at this point and will check to see whether any other SUAA chapters are members. Wilson mentioned that he listened to the AROHE webinar about retirement issues and found it had some useful information. Williamson also noted that an important topic raised among the Big 10 group was that administrators at some of the other Universities are taking away retiree privileges, especially for staff and non-emeritus faculty, such as email access, library access, and the like.

VIII. New Business.

No new business.

Announcements. Gallagher mentioned the Living in Interactive Future Environments (LIFE) Home unit in the research park. Wendy Rogers gave a presentation in Spring 2018 to the UIUC SUAA chapter. It is meant to help people to stay in their own homes. There is a relationship with Clark-Lindsay as they opened up an area for the researchers to use. Gallagher wondered if we could create a resource for our members. Marlin noted it might be worthwhile including in the *Annuitant*.

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:23 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

IMPORTANT DATES

- A. Executive Committee Meetings, Spring, 2024: April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10 (tentative)
- B. Annual Chapter Meeting: April 28
- C. Annual State Meeting: June 19-20, Springfield, IL