

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
**Minutes for March 13, 2024**  
**Web site: [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org)**  
**Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/SUAA.UIUC/>**

**Executive Committee Attendees:** Melinda Carr, Wynne Sandra Korr, Vera Mainz, John C. Marlin, Debora McCall, Donald Uchtmann, H. F. Williamson, Matthew J. Wilson

**Other Attendees:** Carol Livingstone, Megan Pearson, Ron Webbink

**I. Call to Order.**

President Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm.

**II. Approval of minutes for February 14, 2024.**

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

**III. President's Update.**

Wilson noted that the new Director of SUAA plans to attend the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Marlin and Wilson have had meetings with area legislators and their staffs and have received a few agreements to attend April 28<sup>th</sup>. Korr reported on a recent report from Gov. Pritzker. She noted that she has multiple sources of information, such as a daily summary of Illinois news from Wirepoint (conservative viewpoint). Korr also noted that Ralph Martire had an Op-Ed in the Feb. 29, 2024, *Chicago Sun-Times* (<https://chicago.suntimes.com/columnists/2024/02/29/governor-jb-pritzker-budget-plan-fiscal-year-2025-illinois-pensions-ralph-martire>) in which he went over many areas of the budget. Martire is interested in education in general, as well as pension proposals. He also discussed Tier 2 benefits. Korr stated that the Springfield staff have been giving us better briefings.

**IV. Treasurer's Report.**

Webbink presented the report for the activity in February and the Year to Date. He noted that Morgan Stanley is doing well with our account. He also noted that he has had issues with the campus accounting system, but all the problems have been resolved. 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. April 28th at I-Hotel: The meeting will start at 2 pm with a reception with cookies, coffee, and iced tea. The program will start at 2:30 pm and the order of business will be the legislative panel first, then the election. Livingstone wondered if we still needed to have an RSVP for those attending the meeting and the consensus was that we do not. That option will be deleted in the upcoming *Annuitant*.
2. Program: Panel of Legislators.
3. 2024-2027 Candidates for Executive Committee: Korr and Williamson reported on the four candidates and noted that their short biographies will appear in the *Annuitant*. The candidates are Michael Hirschi, Melanie Loots, Robert Flider, and Matthew Wilson. The nominating committee will continue to work with Wilson as he fills, with the Executive Committee's approval, the unexpired portion of the 2023-2026 term created by the resignation of Michael Grossman.

**B. Publicity for Spring Chapter Meeting**

1. Spring *Annuitant*: Livingstone reported the *Annuitant* is set for release after this meeting.
2. State SUAA Website: McCall said she would reach out to have an email sent to all UIUC members a week before and a day before April 28<sup>th</sup>. She noted that having actual names of legislators for the

publicity would be more effective. The suggestion was to use the language “as of this date, we have commitments from X, Y, Z.” Schwiezer, and Rose have committed to attending and Faraci is still looking into it. Ammons hasn’t responded yet. Marlin asked Carr if she had any contacts with Ammon’s office as Marlin has talked to several people in her office but hasn’t heard from Ammons.

3. EWeek: Williamson noted that he would contact EWeek but wanted to know about the text to submit. He will check with Livingstone.
- C. Status of Spring *Annuitant*: Livingstone thanked those who offered comments, dispatches, etc. She will be sending it to the publisher this afternoon.
- D. Planning for Annual SUAA State Meeting: Williamson said it is never too early to begin thinking about attending it, as Webbink will need to send in a check for those attending. The State meeting is June 19-20. Wilson was requested to send out an email to ask for those who want to attend to check in.
- E. Attendance at Big 10 Retirees Association Meeting: Williamson noted that those planning to attend need to register by June 9<sup>th</sup>.

## **VI. Standing Committee Reports.**

- A. Legislative Committee: Adams, Brewer (Chair), Korr, Marlin, Rugg, Schoell, Winkel. Brewer is tied up in Springfield and was unable to attend this meeting. Korr said that the briefings from the new Director of SUAA have been timely and informative.
- B. Membership Committee: Buesing, Carr, Pearson, Williamson (Chair). Williamson noted that we had more drops as this was the year after our membership campaign and it would be typical for new members to drop on their one year anniversary. He anticipates that more members may drop. Williamson noted new language for the email used by him to contact lapsed members in the Membership report. Several people have renewed after receiving that email. We are not getting enough new members to compensate for lapsed and deceased members.
- C. Communications Committee/Newsletter/Website: Carr, Francis, Gallagher, Livingstone (Chair). Brewer will be leaving the Executive Committee so someone will need to take over establishing the zoom link . Mainz will take over that duty from August onward.
- D. Benefits Committee: Stone (Chair), Williamson. Pearson and Williamson said most of the work at the Senate Benefits Committee has not been of interest to retirees. Williamson will check with Stone to see if the Retirement Expo for those within so many months of retirement will occur this spring.
- E. Program Committee: McCall, Wilson. See V.A and B, above.

## **VII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports.**

- A. Big 10 Retirement Association Committee: Francis, Williamson. Williamson again noted that the principal benefit from our attending the Annual Big 10 RA meeting is to hear about the different issues facing the other Associations and the types of programs that they host. An example is the concern that retirees on some campuses are losing their campus email privileges. Marlin noted that this may be occurring at Parkland and others mentioned that some Uillinois.edu addresses are not working for some retirees.
- B. Long Range Planning Committee: Wilson (Chair), Williamson, Marlin, Uchtmann, Gallagher. No report.

## **VIII. New Business.**

- A. Newsletter Staffing. Carr noted that she is taking on new responsibilities as a co-pastor and will need to step back from duties as Editor of the Chapter Newsletter. Someone else will need to be recruited to fill those duties.
- B. SURS BOT Election. Williamson noted that the election for the SURS Board of Trustees would be underway. It was agreed that we would not make recommendations about the candidates.
- C. Health Care Concerns. Former SUAA Board member Thomas Conry contacted members of the Committee concerning the fact that individuals in Aetna will not be covered for treatment at the Mayo Clinic. There was discussion about the reason for this decision and whether state legislators should be contacted about these concerns.
- D. Schedule. It was noted that a decision on whether to hold the optional July meeting of the Executive Committee needs to be considered at one of our next two meetings.

## **IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting.**

Adjourned at 2:05 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

- A. Executive Committee Meetings, Spring, 2024: May 8, June 12, July 10 (tentative)
- B. Annual Chapter Meeting: April 28
- C. Annual State Meeting: June 19-20, Springfield, IL
- D. Big 10 Retiree Association Meeting: July 24-26, Columbus, OH