

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Minutes for March 12, 2025, Executive Committee Planning Session
Web site: www.suaa-ui.org
Facebook Site: <https://www.facebook.com/SUAA.UIUC/>

Executive Committee Attendees: Melinda Carr, Michael Hirschi, Melanie Loots, Vera Mainz, Debora McCall, Donald Uchtmann, H. F. Williamson, Matthew Wilson

Other Attendees: Ron Webbink

I. Call to Order and Introductions.

Wilson called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

II. Approval of minutes for February 12, 2025.

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

III. President's Update.

Wilson discussed the State SUAA 2025 calendar, which is available on the State SUAA website (https://www.suaa.org/index.php?option=com_jevents&Itemid=115&task=). The calendar shows major legislative dates, meetings, etc. Wilson noted that he had a conversation with State Senator Chapin Rose and discussed the shell health care bill. Currently still contains the shell language Rose provided. Flider said he plans to connect with Bryan Soady and discuss who will work on the suggested legislation. The current State SUAA legislative watchlist is appended. Flider will also work with the Legislative committee and see how we should proceed. The State SUAA legislative committee met last month. Williamson and Hirshi distributed a watch list of bills from the UIUC Senate Faculty Staff Benefits (FSB) committee.

IV. Treasurer's Report.

Webbink was reimbursed for the hostpapa.com webserver which hosts the SUAA-UIUC website. Webbink and Loots have also made progress on getting reimbursed for the CCFD printing of the *Fall Annuitant*.

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. Report of the Nominating Committee. Williamson reported the slate of nominees for 2025-2028 terms on the Executive Committee. Uchtmann and McCall were nominated to serve second terms. William Buesing and Meghan Pearson were nominated for first terms to succeed Carr and Marlin who are finishing their second terms. The nominating slate was unanimously approved.
- B. Planning for Spring Chapter Meeting
 - 1. Sunday, April 27th at the I-Hotel; There will be a 2:30 pm reception and the program will start at 3 pm.
 - 2. Program: Our speaker will be UIUC Provost John Coleman. Williamson provided a draft of the program.
 - 3. 2025-2028 Candidates for Executive Committee. The candidates will be presented as part of the chapter business meeting.
- C. Publicity for Spring Chapter Meeting
 - 1. Spring *Annuitant*
 - 2. State SUAA Website – McCall will work on this.
 - 3. EWeek – Williamson to furnish.
- D. Status of Spring *Annuitant*. Carr reported she is waiting for an article from Deb Stone. If she doesn't get something she will use the email information from the State SUAA. The *Annuitant* will be going to press on Friday, Mar. 15th. Carr plans to continue on the Communications committee and will work with Gallagher to transition the editor position for the Fall *Annuitant*.

- E. Planning for the virtual System-Wide Retirement Expo, April 28. Executive Director Soady has been approached to make the SUAA presentation but details need to be worked out on whether individual virtual Chapter “booths” will be set up and, if so, how.
- F. Planning for Meeting of Regional 3 Leaders. The Zoom meetings is scheduled for March 25. Williamson and Uchtmann are planning to attend.
- G. Attendance at Big 10 Retirees Association Meeting – Williamson noted that registration is now open and will continue until June. He reminded those with ties to the University of Michigan or Michigan in general can use this opportunity to visit the state with their expenses covered.
- H. Review Records Retention Guidelines and physical Chapter Archives. Loots said that Williamson and Webbink have some chapter archive records. She wanted to know if anyone else has records. Loots would look at the SUAA State policy and with the committee decide on a policy. The question is where they should be retained physically and/or digitally. Mainz can check with the Archives and see what the policy would be to take them.
- I. Update on Process for Selection of new Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. Wilson checked with Soady about the option of the State SUAA hosting our chapter website. They are working on launching the new State SUAA website.

VI. Standing Committee Reports.

- A. Legislative Committee: Adams, Flider (Chair), Marlin, Rugg, Schoell, Winkel. Flider noted that the State SUAA Legislation committee met recently. The major items under discussion were fixing the Tier 2 pension benefits and connected to fixing the Safe Harbor issues. The Safe Harbor issue must be dealt with but no one from the Federal Government has contacted the State and noted Illinois is out of compliance. There is also work on the DROP bill. In the Deferred Retiree bill the idea is that some retirees may be asked to continue to work with the University and are looking for some flexibility. There is also the on going discussion on increased access to choice for SURS retiree’s healthcare. The committee needs to convene and discuss past and current questions.
- B. Membership Committee: Carr, Loots, Pearson, Williamson (Chair). The report was distributed.
- C. Communications Committee/Newsletter/Website: Carr, Francis, Gallagher. Carr noted that she has contacted the graphics designer and asked her to send proofs of everything except page 6.
- D. Benefits Committee: Hirschi, Stone (Chair), Williamson. Hirschi and Williamson reported on actions taken at the most recent meeting of the Senate Committee on Faculty and Staff Benefits (FB). It included information about who would be invited to attend the Virtual Retirement Expo on April 28. They were pleased that two senior members of the Committee strongly praised the work of the SUAA State Office and Brian Soady's weekly reports in particular.
- E. Program Committee: McCall, Wilson. See item 5B, above.

VII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports.

- A. Big 10 Retirement Association Committee: Gallagher, Williamson. No report.
- B. Long Range Planning Committee: Gallagher, Marlin, Williamson, Wilson (Chair), Uchtmann. No report.

VIII. New Business.

Mainz noted the recent announcement that Health Alliance is going out of the insurance business. Mainz would draft an email to Soady. Flider said he would bring it up to the Carle administrator he knows.

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

IMPORTANT DATES

- A. Executive Committee Meetings, 2025: Apr. 9, May 14, Jun. 11, Jul 9 (tentative), Aug 13, Sep 10, Oct 8, Nov 5, Dec 10.
- B. Spring Meeting, April 27, 2025.
- C. Virtual Retirement Expo, April 28, 2025.

- D. SUAA State Meeting (Springfield): Jun. 13-14, 2025
- E. Big 10 Retirees Association (Ann Arbor): Aug. 5-7, 2025
- F. All Employee Expo, October 23, 2025

Appendix 1.

State SUAA Legislative “Watch-List”

[H.R. 89 / S.R. 112](#)

Declares June 13, 2025 as SURS Retiree Appreciation Day in the State of Illinois to honor and recognize the ongoing contributions and value of SURS retirees across the State. The companion resolution in the Senate also declares June 13, 2025, as SURS Retiree Appreciation Day.

[S.B. 1076](#)

Particularly, we’re following Amendment 1 to the bill. Amendment 1 dictates the creation of a “Medicare Consumer Checklist” to be administered by the Department of Insurance. This one-page checklist will compare Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Supplement Plans.

Specifically, the checklist will compare:

1. 1. Plan networks, including differences in providers, specialists, hospitals, urgent care centers, and pharmacies.
2. Portability rules, including rules for travel and out-of-state coverage.
3. Prescription drug coverage
4. Maximum out-of-pocket exposure, including annual limits, in-network and out-of-network expenses, and cost-sharing for services.

The Department of Insurance shall update the checklist on January 1 of each year.

[HB 2332](#)

The bill amends the State Universities Article of the Pension Code. It provides that a Tier 2 member with at least 20 years of service in SURS as a police officer or firefighter is entitled to receive their pension upon a written application on or after having turned 55, instead of 60.

[HB 1226](#)

The bill amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. It requires every applicant for the renewal of a driver’s license who is 79 years or older to renew in person. The legislation makes other changes.

[SB 1376](#)

The bill creates the Historical Cost of Attendance Disclosure Act. Requires each public or private college or university to post its cost of attendance on its website for each of the 10 academic years immediately preceding the effective date of the Act and for every academic year thereafter.