

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**

**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**

**Minutes for November 12, 2025**

**Web site: [www.suaa-ui.org](http://www.suaa-ui.org)**

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

Meeting will begin at 1:30 pm in the **Friends Conference Room at the Champaign Public Library** and on Zoom.

**Executive Committee Attendees:** Robert Flider, Tanya Gallagher, Michael Hirschi, Melanie Loots, Vera Mainz, Debora McCall, Katie Ross, Donald Uchtmann, H. F. Williamson

**Other Attendees:** Melinda Carr, Rose Paul.

**I. Call to Order and Introductions.**

Uchtmann presided as Wilson was unable to attend. He called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm. He introduced Rose Paul to the committee as the liaison from the Staff Advisory Council.

**II. Approval of Minutes for October 8, 2025.**

A motion to approve the minutes for October 8, 2025, with minor corrections, was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

**III. President's Update.**

Uchtmann noted that SURS is having a webinar on Thursday, November 13, at 10 am. Williamson noted that SURS started holding these stakeholders meetings with the disbandment of the SURS Member Advisory Committee (SURSMAC) at whose meetings these reports used to be made. With the end of SURSMAC around 2014, SURS moved to the current format of reporting directly to the members through Zoom. This represented a significant improvement in the ability of SURS members to hear this information.

**IV. Treasurer's Report.**

Loots presented the report for the activity in October 2025 and the year to date. Loots was thanked for the report. Loots reported that during October there was little activity. She received the dues payment from the State SUAA office and an interest payment. Gallagher asked how the dues rate is set and requested that Loots check into how much the dues are for the various chapters.

*NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please send to Melanie Loots: 813 W. University Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820-3921*

**V. Action/Discussion Items.**

- A. Report on Annuitant. Carr reported that the Annuitant went out only electronically to chapter members due to delays in the process. State SUAA caused some delays and SURS caused some delays. Historically, we only printed the Fall Annuitant and sent it out via USPS to the SURS member list, not just the UIUC chapter members. We also included an insert for the Campus Charitable Fund Drive (CCFD) for the UIUC campus and were reimbursed for the extra print and mailing costs. This year, inclusion of this insert required that the print edition be mailed well in advance of the November 19, 2025, deadline for contributions to the CCFD. We were unable to make this deadline and made the decision not to print any issues. Loots is working to find out if there was a way to send out the insert electronically to the additional SURS members. She went to Soady at State SUAA and requested they ask SURS if we could get an email list for all non-SUAA member retirees. The SUAA State Office explained that SURS will not provide member email addresses. Loots then spoke with Adam Murray, the CCFD lead at the Office of Public Engagement at UIUC. Murray proposed to ask campus IT to pull the email addresses of those retirees who have contributed to UIUC CCFD in the last couple of years. They are in the process of determining if this is feasible. Murray noted that his office is asked not to promote the CCFD outside the University of Illinois. If successful in obtaining this email list, Loots proposed to have a cover note pointing to the SUAA-UI website and noting the CCFD information. The consensus was to approve a motion to approve

the proposal about the IT emails. The motion also gave Loots permission to move forward once she found out what Murray could do.

Additional mailing thoughts was that there are 1200 members of the chapter with emails and about 200 people without reported emails. Loots wondered if the State SUAA sends renewal notices via USPS. One question about the Annuitant as we go forward is whether we want to continue sending a print mailing or not to those without email addresses. Are we moving to electronic mailing only or print and electronic mailing? For the Fall issue, if we do print it, do we include the CCFD insert? Carr and Loots conferred on the status of the Fall 2025 Annuitant a few days ago. One possibility would be to print and send copies of the Fall 2025 Annuitant for the 200 chapter members without emails. Carr would be willing to send this mailing, in order to have an opportunity to increase chapter membership. It would also give these members an opportunity to be told we aren't printing any more issues, if that is what we decide. Another proposal was to not print the Fall 2025 Annuitant but send some type of communication to the 200 members without emails. Gallagher proposed that the communications committee send a postcard to those 200 members without an email, include a link to the chapter website, and note that if they have an email, they should send it to the State SUAA office. This motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed. Williamson is one of four executive committee members who has access to the membership list and volunteered to help with this mailing.

- B. Report on the State Fall Meeting, October 15, 2025. There were no significant issues to report. We did learn to the surprise of most of us that the Annual Meeting next June, traditionally held in Springfield, has been arranged to be held at the I-Hotel in Champaign on June 25-26. No information has yet been provided us on the role our Chapter will be expected to play, if any, in hosting the meeting. As part of the discussion on recruiting new members, we circulated to those from other Chapters a copy of the handout prepared by Katie Ross which was very popular and, we suspect, already in use at many of those Chapters.
- C. Report on the All Employee Expo, October 23, 2025, Williamson. Those who staffed our booth felt that the Expo went well as many of the attendees took time to talk with us about SUAA. We hoped this will translate into some actually joining the Chapter! The card prepared by Katie Ross was a particularly effective handout for informing attendees about the importance of joining SUAA. Gallagher reported on the comment by one woman that may be too typical of newer employees. This individual responded that she didn't care about pensions but was interested in the portable plans. Williamson concluded the discussion by noting that he will be gladly passing on the task of organizing our booth if an Expo is held next year.
- D. Report on Fall Chapter Meeting, Wednesday, October 29, 2025. The minutes for the meeting were presented for review. A motion to accept the minutes with a minor correction by Ross was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.
- E. Review Records Retention Guidelines. The review committee of Loots, Mainz, and Williamson plan to set up a date to meet and determine how to evaluate the old records.
- F. Update on SUAA UIUC website, Mainz. Mainz reported that the website is up to date, with a pattern of posting the meeting minutes, etc., after the executive committee meeting.
- G. Draft SUAA-UIUC Pop-up Banner, Mainz. See **attached**. Mainz presented a design. There were several requested changes and general support in moving forward. Mainz will pursue the design changes and a vote to accept a specific design after the executive committee, via email.

## VI. Standing Committee Reports.

- A. Legislative Committee: Adams, Flider (Chair), Marlin, Rugg, Schoell, Winkel. Flider was unable to attend the legislative committee meeting at Springfield. This session had a hearing on Tier 2 pension reforms during the last veto session but no action was taken. Williamson asked if both options for Tier 2 reform, the first reform being to go to Safe Harbors and the second reform being to go to full Tier 1 benefits, were being considered. Uchtmann asked Flider if we were still in touch with Senators Rose and Faraci. Wilson had a draft language for a proposal about the next insurance decision.
- B. Membership Committee: Carr, Loots, Pearson, Ross, Williamson (Chair). Williamson noted that the number of new members is still zero and has been zero since April. See **attached** SUAA membership and delegate breakdown from October 2025, provided by Williamson. At the conclusion of the committee report discussion, Gallagher suggested the Executive Committee might explore how the unique interests of

4-year universities are brought to the attention of the SUAA State Office. There was consensus to consider this topic in the future.

- C. Communications Committee/Newsletter/Website: Carr, Francis, Gallagher. See above, section V(A).
- D. Benefits Committee: Hirschi, Ross, Stone (Chair), Williamson. Ross noted the upcoming SURS townhall on November 13<sup>th</sup> and that the TRAIL open enrollment ends on Friday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. She has been posting about twice a week on the chapter facebook page and has seen a net increase of 7 followers. Carr noted a recent facebook post that Arrow Ambulance service was not covered by Aetna and Ross was asked to follow up.
- E. Program Committee: McCall, Wilson. Uchtmann noted that McCall had done a great job in setting up the Fall meeting program.

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

- A. Big 10 Retirement Association Committee: Gallagher, Williamson. There was no report for this month.
- B. Long Range Planning Committee: Gallagher, Marlin, Williamson, Wilson (Chair), Uchtmann. There was no report for this month.

#### **VIII. New Business.**

There was no new business.

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:45pm. The next scheduled meeting will be at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025. Note that Mainz will not be attending the January 14, 2026, meeting.

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**

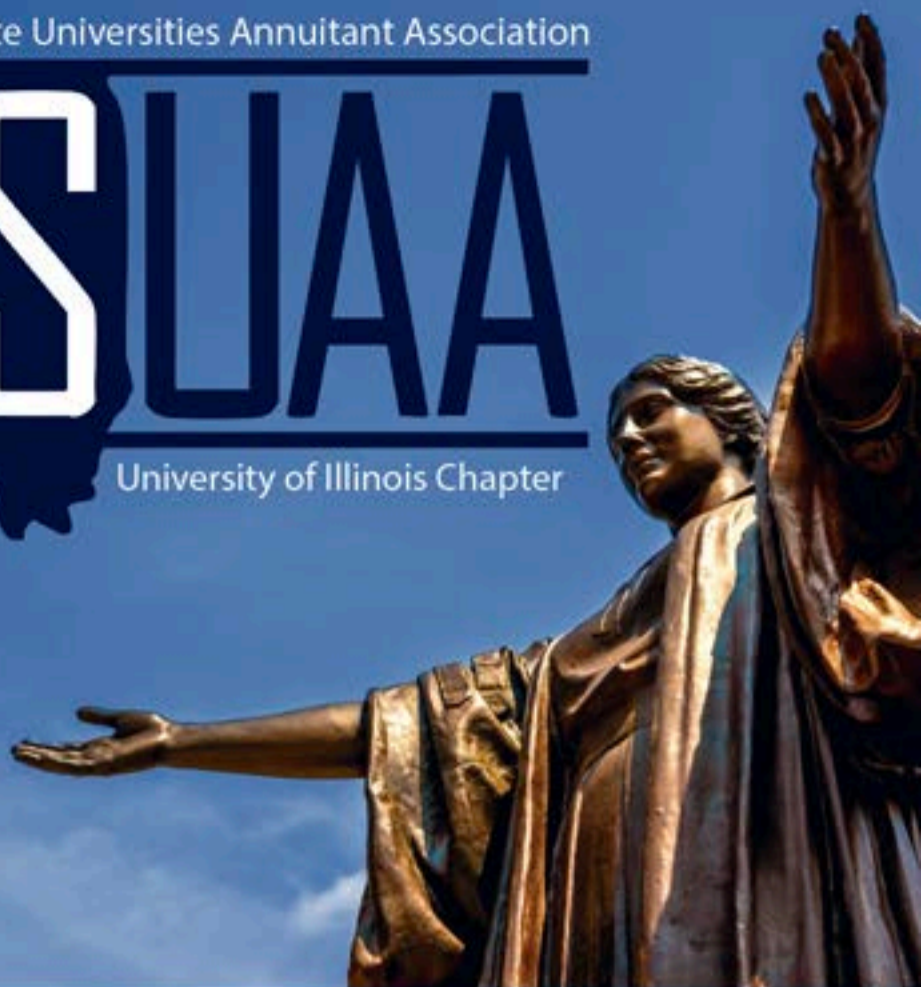
- A. Executive Committee Meetings, 2025: Dec 10; 2026: Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13, Jun 10, Jul 8 (tentative)
- B. State Conference and Business Meeting: June 25-26, 2026, Champaign, Illinois
- C. Big Ten Retiree Meeting: July 29-31, 2026, Minneapolis, MN.

State Universities Annuitant Association



**SUAA**

University of Illinois Chapter



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**Advocating for:**

- Pension protection
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SUAA MEMBERSHIP AND DELEGATE BREAKDOWN, OCTOBER 2025

<b>UNIVERSITIES</b>	<b>MEMBERS</b>	<b>VOTES</b>
NIU	1414	5
UIUC	1335	5
UIC	1225	5
ISU	863	4
EIU	482	3
SIUC	480	3
WIU	449	3
SIUE	377	2
GSU	376	2
NEIU	164	2
CSU	69	2
SIUM	62	2
UIS	54	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7350</b>	<b>40</b>

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

**42 Institutions      4183      84**

**SUMMARY: Universities generate 64% of the dues income and have less than one-third of the delegate votes.**