

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Minutes for April 10, 2024
Web site: 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 1:32 pm.

II. Approval of minutes for March 13, 2024.

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

III. President's Update.

Wilson met with the presidents of SUAA UIC chapter (Christopher Keys) and SUAA UIS chapter (Richard Simpson) and separately with the president of the SUAA Parkland chapter. Their members are invited to our April 28th meeting. Wilson made a presentation to the UIUC Council of Academic Professionals (CAP). Pearson noted they had a few more attending the meeting than was normal, and she has shared a link to his presentation. Wilson emphasized the Tier 1 vs Tier 2 issues during the presentation.

IV. Treasurer's Report.

Webbink presented the report for the activity in March and the Year to Date. Webbink was thanked for the report.

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. Sunday, April 28th at I-Hotel: Reception at 2 pm; Program at 2:30 pm. McCall and Marlin have been making the arrangements. Livingstone requested that someone from the Executive Committee to take pictures of the crowd. McCall asked about having a sign in sheet and whether she should include a question about how those attending heard about the meeting. Williamson asked about other things to have available, such as name tags, brochures, programs, etc. Williamson brought copies of the program for the Fall meeting. McCall asked Livingstone if she would provide a tiny url for the meeting link and Livingstone will do so and send it to McCall. There was a short discussion about using the paper program as a ballot if nominations for the Executive Committee were received from the floor.
2. Program: Panel of Legislators. Wilson asked Marlin to moderate the panel. Wilson will introduce the panelists and then ask each of them to give a short overview of the legislation that would be of interest to SUAA UIUC members. As of this morning, Brandon Schweizer and Chapin Rose confirmed the meeting is on their schedules. Ammons is not available due to a prior commitment. Faraci is interested but has not confirmed. Regan Deering (Republican candidate for Illinois District 88 seat) plans to attend but won't be on panel. Marlin noted that the US Congress is currently dealing with retiree issues, so he will contact Nikki Budzinski to see if she can come. Williamson noted that last time we had a panel, we sent the panelists a suggested list of topics. Livingstone asked Williamson to take the lead on the EWeek listing. She recommended we list those legislators that have confirmed. However, Marlin said he would prefer not to list confirmed legislators in case they can't come because of the legislative schedule. The consensus was to list those invited and use the word tentatively accepted. Williamson said the names would likely not fit

on EWeek. Livingstone will craft the facebook advertisement, including the link to join the meeting on April 28th. McCall needs the information by early next week.

3. 2024-2027 Candidates for Executive Committee. Wilson noted we've already discussed them at the previous meeting and they will be voted on at the April 28th program.

B. Publicity for Spring Chapter Meeting.

1. Spring *Annuitant*. The Annuitant was sent to 1700 people. Carr picked up the extras for handout at the April 28th meeting.
2. State email announcement will be handled by McCall.
3. The EWeek announcement will be handled by Williamson.
4. Programs for the meeting. Williamson brought a draft program for the meeting. It was agreed that the names of those on the legislative panel would be removed. A motion to approve the program as amended was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. Wilson asked who should be reporting on standing committees and it was agreed that the chairs of Membership (Williamson) and Benefits (Stone) would give reports. Williamson asked about a dry run of the zoom meeting mechanics and Livingstone said it was not necessary as I-Hotel staff would be available to make the connection..

C. The Spring *Annuitant* has been published.

D. Planning for Annual State Meeting. Wilson sent out an email requesting Executive Committee members planning to attend to let him know. Five of those attending will have the ability to vote. Wilson should invite the new members of the Executive Committee elected on April 28th to attend. The meeting date is June 19-20, with the actual meeting on Thursday, June 20th.

E. Attendance at Big 10 Retirees Association Meeting. Williamson noted that if anyone is interested, please talk to him.

VI. Standing Committee Reports.

- A. Legislative Committee: Adams, Brewer (Chair), Korr, Marlin, Rugg, Schoell, Winkel. See above. Brewer met with the new SUAA CEO, Brian Soady. He reached out to her twice about SUAA UIUC lobby day. Brewer told him to reach out to Marlin to find out what is happening locally.
- B. Membership Committee: Buesing, Carr, Pearson, Williamson (Chair). Williamson presented the monthly report showing a net loss of one member in March. He expressed concern that he had learned that it was not certain that the campus would schedule a Retirement Expos again, an event that played a key role in our past membership campaigns. We were a sponsor and our President a speaker on the program for the last one. Williamson also noted he received an email from a member offering to be involved in membership activities who suggested some strategies for making presentations to relevant campus groups.
- C. Communications Committee/Newsletter/Website: Carr, Francis, Gallagher, Livingstone (Chair). Livingstone thanked Williamson for having sent suggested revisions to the Chapter website and hoped that others visiting the site would also send her any suggestions for changes. Williamson complimented her on the site, noting that the staff at the state office particularly appreciated her having prepared a table listing the websites for all the SUAA Chapters who have a site.
- D. Benefits Committee: Stone (Chair), Williamson. Stone will report at the meeting on April 28th. Williamson noted that if someone wants help to plan retirement we generally send them to SURS. The spring Retirement Expo was usually the most effective event we attended. We had a table with SURS, SUAA, HR, etc., for a reasonable cost. Stone said there will not be one this spring. Campus HR are evaluating the options. He intends to bring this up at Faculty Benefits Committee.
- E. Program Committee: McCall, Wilson. See above.

VII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports.

- A. Big 10 Retirement Association Committee: Francis, Williamson. Williamson again described how we differed from the other Associations in the Big 10 group. The key difference is that (a) we are a chapter in a state-wide group lobbying to protect our pensions and health care while (b) they are campus-specific groups offering programs and, in some cases, services such as provision of health care options. Korr and Gallagher both suggested we could review some of those programs to see if they would be worthwhile for us to consider. Brewer mentioned that we could partner with HR about funding a part-time

position. Wilson noted we could consider which new programs might, as indicated in the bylaws, help us promote the collective interests and welfare of our members.

B. Long Range Planning Committee: Wilson (Chair), Williamson, Marlin, Uchtmann, Gallagher. No report.

VIII. New Business.

Defer discussion about June or July meeting.

Wilson concluded the meeting by reminding everyone about the election for members of the SURS Board of Trustees. He noted that a decision about holding the optional July meeting of the Executive Committee would be made at one of the next two meetings.

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm. The next scheduled meeting will be at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, May 8, 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