

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

Executive Committee Attendees: Melinda Carr, Robert Flider, Tanya Gallagher, Melanie Loots, Vera Mainz, John C. Marlin, Debora McCall, H. F. Williamson, Matthew Wilson

Other Attendees: Megan Pearson, Ron Webbink

I. Call to Order.

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

II. Approval of minutes for June 12, 2024.

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

III. President's Update.

Wilson commented on the long-range planning meeting on July 10th. One of the major issue discussed was how to move forward with planning to replace Carol Livingstone as Annuitant Editor, social media manager and SUAA UIUC Webmaster. Wilson noted it was a productive meeting. Williamson suggested making the optional meetings in January and July planning meetings. There was a consensus to approve of this suggestion. Carr reported that one person responded to the email call for editing and webmaster aid and he won't be able to do so given his time commitments. Wilson spoke with Brian Soady from SUAA and asked him about help from the SUAA state office. Wilson will talk with him tomorrow. Mainz noted that she has all of Livingstone's files on a memory stick. Wilson noted that Soady asked why we do a print newsletter. Carr stated that we have members who don't have access to electronics, so we have both a print and digital edition of the Annuitant. The digital version is posted on the SUAA UIUC website. Carr also stated that we have hundred of members without email addresses, i.e., that they have not reported email addresses to SUAA. Wilson asked whether we could get email addresses of those members. Carr said we could ask for that information but can't force members to provide it.

IV. Treasurer's Report.

Webbink presented the report for the activity in July and the year to date. He noted that one CD had matured and been re-invested. He is setting up a ladder for the CDs so that money could be available within 6 months. Gallagher asked who sends out the dues notices and was told that the State SUAA office sends them out.

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 from State SUAA meeting in Springfield, June 19-20, 2024. Williamson, speaking to the membership aspect, noted that we are not atypical. Only two chapters in the state gained membership between Apr and May. We have fallen behind NIU as the largest chapter in state. Gallagher noted that she had not realized the number of chapters that are small colleges, etc. She thought that some activities that work for us would not be appropriate for them and *vice versa*. Loots was struck by the same thought and intrigued by the discussion of Tier 2 and safe harbor options. Loots reported that there was a good energy from Soady and she liked the presentations. She noted the lapsed membership issue as one she would be willing to spend some time contacting folks and trying to get them to join, re-join, etc. She wonders if we'd ever done anything like sitting at the farmer's market and having a table. Those present did not think we have done so in the past. Williamson said we may have been there when we were working on a constitutional amendment about 15 years ago. Wilson said that activity would be along the lines of the retiree expo held at UIUC. Martin said Williamson has a list of lapsed members as well as the current membership list and she could look at that and contact those she knows.

- B. Report from Big 10 Retirees Association Meeting, July 24-26, Columbus, OH. Gallagher noted that it is the person-to-person relationship that is important to grow membership. Williamson and Gallagher will report in more detail during the Ad Hoc Committee reports.
- C. Planning for Fall Chapter Meeting, October 27, 2024. McCall announced that the Fall Chapter Meeting will be on Sunday, October 27, 2024, not as a hybrid meeting, in the same room at the I Hotel that we used for the Spring meeting. The principal speaker will be Brian Soady, SUAA State Executive Director. She has also contacted administrators at SURS about speaking at the meeting. She plans for refreshments to start at 2:30 pm. and the program to start at 3 pm. She has requested that the seating be at tables rather than rows of chairs as it is more sociable. Pearson asked about technical issues at the Spring meeting and whether we ever received a recording of that meeting. The answer is no, and we will not as that recording had no sound and other issues. We plan to be certain that this does not occur at the Fall meeting by simply recording it, not by broadcasting live on zoom.
- D. Discussion of Process for Selection of new Webmaster and Newsletter Editor. Mainz contacted the School of Chemical Sciences (SCS) Graphic Services to work on the fall newsletter. Dorothy Loudermilk has agreed to do the layout at campus rates if a CFOP can be used. Carr went through the articles and other items needed for the Fall Annuitant. Mainz agreed to provide the roster and a short summary of the spring meeting. Carr has some material from CCFD that would need to be edited. Williamson asked if we could open up the committee structure to have non-executive committee members serve. Wilson thought this was reasonable and said we could list the available committees and ask for people to serve. Carr noted that the Fall Annuitant has a longer approval time than the spring newsletter because SURS needs to approve the content as it goes to all SURS retirees and they may not be members of SUAA UIUC. Gallagher and Williamson will write a report on the June State meeting. Carr asked everyone to go through list of needed articles distributed at the meeting. SURS sent out a recent email out on Tier 2, and we could paraphrase that or post as sent. Carr will request the list of deceased members from SURS. Carr will ask Brewer if she could do that as she has done it in the past. Williamson volunteered to write an article on the Foundation that could be used as filler if needed. Carr will send notes out to those who are providing articles. Mainz requested that all articles be sent by Friday, Aug. 23rd.

VI. Standing Committee Reports.

- A. Legislative Committee: Adams, Korr, Marlin (Chair), Rugg, Schoell, Winkel. Flider reported that when the legislative session ended there were still pending discussions on Tier 2 and Safe Harbor. This was not unusual. Other organizations have pension issues, such as the police, etc., and the Legislature bundles same issues together. They want consensus. The Teacher's unions also want reforms, not just the Safe Harbor issues. He believes they will be continue to be important. The Pritzker plan wants to have 100% of the pensions funded by 2048 vs 90% funding at an earlier date. With regard to full pension funding, BIMP (Budget Implementation Plan) put in a provision that first available funds would be put into pension system early. That happened for the first time in July.
- B. Membership Committee: Buesing, Carr, Loots, Pearson, Williamson (Chair). Williamson noted that the bottom of the report has an example of the email he sends to lapsed members.
- C. Communications Committee/Newsletter/Website: Carr, Francis, Gallagher, Hirschi. See section V.D above.
- D. Benefits Committee: Stone (Chair), Williamson. No report.
- E. Program Committee: McCall, Wilson. Section V.C above.

VII. Ad Hoc Committee Reports.

- A. Big 10 Retiree Association Committee: Gallagher, Williamson. Gallagher and Williamson led a wide-ranging discussion of their reactions to the topics covered at this year's meeting of the Big 10 Retiree Association at the Ohio State University. We are the "outlier" in this group in that while we are a Chapter in a state organization whose focus is on protecting our pensions and health care, the other Associations are stand-alone organizations focusing on working with their campuses and on social activities for their members. In any case, all the groups are working hard to grow and maintain their memberships. Gallagher noted a number of steps we could take based on those discussions. Perhaps the principal one was to expand the Chapter's committee structure beyond what is now essentially a single committee, the Executive

Committee (EC). This would give other members a chance to be involved in our work and be potential future members of the EC. It would also make it easier to implement any other changes that might be proposed. One could be to work with the campus on how various campus organizations could draw upon the expertise of our members who are still interested in such volunteer activities. We could also help the campus organizations contact retirees more effectively such as when volunteers are requested for various medical studies. It was felt that we were not ready to follow some of the other Big 10 Associations and start to sponsor more membership activities such as social events or monthly lunches. It was agreed that this is a continuing topic of interest given, as Flider noted, the importance of making both annuitants and current employees aware that they have a significant stake in the success of SUAA. It probably should next be considered by the Long Range Planning Committee. Regarding recruiting efforts, Williamson noted that the event at which we did this most effectively in the past was the Retirement Expo which was not held last year. He will ask about its future when the Senate Faculty and Staff Benefits Committee meets this fall. This would be a better opportunity than we had at the Employee Expo last fall where we had a table across from SURS which was worked well for us. The discussion concluded with the note that our Chapter is scheduled to hold the Big 10 Retirees Association Annual Meeting in 2031.

- B. Long Range Planning Committee: Wilson (Chair), Williamson, Marlin, Uchtmann, Gallagher. Williamson suggested during the President's Update that we use the January time as long range planning vs. as an optional meeting. If we try to meet about every six months, then the July meeting, usually optional, could also be used for this purpose.

VIII. New Business.

IX. Adjournment and Next Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48pm. The next scheduled executive committee meeting will be at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

IMPORTANT DATES

- A. Executive Committee Meetings, 2024: Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11; 2025: Jan. 8 (tentative), Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 9, May 14, Jun. 11.
- B. Fall Meeting, October 27, 2024