

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

UIUC Chapter Executive Committee

Web site: <http://www.suaa-ui.org>

Minutes for *October 12, 2011*; Clark-Lindsay Meeting Room

Attending: Mary Beastall, Gerald Brighton, Tom Conry, Stephen D'Arcy, Paul Dollins, Gary Engelgau, Athalia Hunt, Carl Larson, Jane Loeb, Mark Netter, Terri Palumbo, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Bob Todd, Ginny Waaler, Bill Williamson

I. Call to Order and President's Report

- A. Meeting was called to order by President Conry at 1:35PM.
- B. Minutes for the meeting of September 14, 2011 were approved as submitted.
- C. Schedule of meetings for fall was reviewed:
 - Fall General Membership Meeting; October 16 at the I-Hotel
 - Fall 2011 State Directors Meeting, October 18, Illinois State University.
 - 2011 All-Employee Expo, October 18. [Exec Committee members were encouraged to attend]
 - Survivor Workshop, at SURS, November 10 at 10:00am
 - Future meetings of Executive Committee are: November 9, and December 14, 2011.
- D. President's Report: Conry briefly reported on the IGPA Pension Summit in Chicago, October 3,4, 2011. Extensive discussion by the Executive Committee followed Conry's comments, with reports by all those who attended the Pension Summit.

The Pension Summit brought together attendees and presenters with a broad range of viewpoints on the topics of state and public pensions, and how to deal with the state's accumulated pension debt. Exec Committee attendees saw little evident compromise between the polar positions; most thought that attendees left the event with the same position they carried going in. Nevertheless, the event was valuable in clarifying issues and positions; IGPA is to be lauded for organizing it. The event was video taped and should soon be available at the IGPA website: <http://igpa.uillinois.edu/>
- E. Placement of advertisement in News-Gazette

Because the newsletters were not taken to the post office by UofI Mailing Center on a timely basis, and the Fall Membership Meeting is this coming Sunday, Conry approved an advertisement in the News-Gazette; cost - \$228. Approval of this action was moved, seconded, and passed by the Exec Committee.

II. Treasurer's Report:

- Receipts for September were \$2; disbursements were \$718.
- Fund balance on September 30 was \$87,957 (\$47,001 CDs + \$40,956 checking)
- Report was accepted.

III. Action Items

A. IGPA Pension Summit : see President's report above

B. Fall General Membership Meeting: Sunday, October 16, 2011

Preparations and planning with the I-Hotel are complete; accommodations will be for 130 to 150 attendees in the Chancellor's Ballroom. There will be an e-mail sign-up sheet at the conference reception desk. The UofI President's office has confirmed his attendance.

A motion was made, seconded and approved for a one-year complimentary SUAA membership for President Hogan.

C. **Expenses for IGPA Pension Summit** — motion was made and seconded to reimburse Conry for \$335 in transportation, lodging and expenses for the Summit in Chicago. Motion approved.

D. **Dues Increase:** *Increase Chapter dues from \$5.00 to \$8.00 as a result of the common dues set for the three UI campuses at \$33.00. Prior to this SUAA-UIUC dues were \$30.00 per year with the Chapter dues at \$5.00 per year.*

This change is still pending; no action taken at this time. If questions about the upcoming dues increase arise at the Fall Membership Meeting, we will discuss the reasons for the change and the amount, but can offer no details until we know more about implementation.

E. **Plans for State Directors Meeting on October 18 at ISU.** Four members of the Exec Committee will attend (Beastall, Conry, Todd, Williamson), in addition to Dollins whose attendance is covered by the state office. Authorization of travel expenses for three attendees (Beastall, Conry, Todd) was moved, seconded, and approved. UIUC Chapter will send the state SUAA office \$40 per attendee, for a total \$120. Williamson sent his registration in earlier.

IV. Reporting Items

A. **Membership:** Terri Palumbo reported a net increase of 4 in membership in September; from 2078 to 2082. A special meeting was held 9/26/2011 for Exec Committee members (on a volunteer basis) to brainstorm Chapter membership ideas and strategies.

Discussion of actions relating to both Membership and Communications:

- A draft letter to non-renewals was reviewed. A letter will be mailed to the ~60 people who did not renew membership in the last year. Plans are to have a cover note from an Exec Committee member whenever the non-renewee is a friend or acquaintance. Conry will sign the letter and return a hard copy to Engelgau and Palumbo for cover notes and mailing. A pre-addressed stamped return envelope will be included in the mailing.

- Plans remain to match the UIUC recently retired against the Chapter membership list, and send a solicitation to the non-members three times a year.

- A draft letter was reviewed that articulates the ease of dues deduction over mailing an annual check. A pre-addressed stamped return envelope will be included in the mailing. In the next few weeks it will be mailed to Chapter members now re-upping by annual check.

B. **Legislative Committee/Political Action:** Rugg, Satterthwaite, Schoell

Schoell reviewed the busy legislative slate for this fall, including the veto session (a short two weeks this year) beginning 10/25. While detailed legislative actions and activities are difficult to predict, it is clear that the House and Senate will approach state pension issues differently. Realistically, there is little probability of broad Springfield agreement on these issues until January 2012. It is likely some version of SB512 regarding pensions will reappear in the veto session, but specifics remain to be seen.

New proposals and substantive legislative action can erupt literally overnight. Although difficult, we must attempt to keep Exec Committee and general SUAA membership informed. This is not realistic other than by electronic means, i.e. e-mail, Twitter, etc.

Some combination of Conry, Schoell, Rugg, and Dollins will be meeting with legislators Barickman, Frerichs, Hayes, Jacobsen, Righter, and Rose in the next few weeks to assess their positions on issues of interest to retirees. (aside: Frerichs' website has an online survey; members residing in his district are encouraged to complete the survey.) Broadly speaking, the SUAA position remains, "No diminution of benefits."

C. Benefits Committee: Beastall

Beastall reminded of the Chapter-sponsored Survivor Assistance Workshop at 10 a.m. on November 10, 2011 at the SURS headquarters. The session is limited to 40 attendees.

SURS is considering a post-retirement workshop, but has no definite plans or itinerary at this time. Anyone with suggestions for content should submit them to Beastall via e-mail.

D. Communications Committee: Larson, Engelgau, Rockwood, Loeb

(also see combined discussion above under Membership)

UIUC Employee Expo, October 18, 10AM – 2PM: Engelgau reiterated final plans for the SUAA booth/table, and asked for Exec Committee volunteers to cover the booth during the event. Several offered assistance. The draft of an informational handout prepared by Rugg was distributed for review.

E. Newsletter: Rockwood, Larson

Engelgau reminded that the newsletter is 9-week process from beginning to end. Thus the spring 2012 newsletter must begin with content decisions before the February 2012 Exec Committee meeting, leading to printing and mailing "safely" before the spring general membership meeting. April 22, 2012 was agreed upon as the tentative date for the spring general meeting, which means the newsletter needs to be in the mail in early April at the latest. Rugg will check with Chancellor Wise as to her availability as our spring meeting speaker.

V. New Business

A letter will be drafted for President Conry's signature that exhorts faculty and staff within 4 to 5 years of retirement to join SUAA.

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting

The Meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM. Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Board Room.

Minutes submitted by Terry Ruprecht, Chapter Secretary