

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
**Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room**  
**<http://www.suaa-ui.org>**  
**Minutes for December 10, 2014**

**Attending:** Pam Cler, Tom Conry, Barbara Hartman, Athalia Hunt, Jane Loeb, Mark Netter, Terri Palumbo, Terry Ruprecht, Steve Rugg, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Ginny Waaler, Ron Webbink, Bill Williamson

**I. President's Report**

- A. Call to Order was issued by President Terry Ruprecht at 1:34 p.m.
- B. Approval of minutes for November 12, 2014 was moved and seconded (Webbink, Waaler) then passed.
- C. Review of schedule of meetings:
  - (1) Exec Committee Meetings 2014-15: December 10, January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8.
  - (2) Retirement Planning Conference: Feb. 21, 2015, I Hotel.
  - (3) General Membership Meeting: confirmed for April 12.

D. President Ruprecht initiated a further discussion of the issue raised last month concerning retroactive benefits for retired same sex married couples, now that marriage is legal for them. A general consensus emerged that since SURS and law govern this issue, there is no clear role for SUAA.

**II. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Webbink noted that the current CD interest rate is .25%. Acceptance of the report was moved and seconded (Williamson, Hartman), and the report was accepted.

*NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please have it sent to Ron Webbink's on-campus address (103 Astronomy, 1002 W. Green, MC221, Urbana, IL. 61801), so that the bill can be paid promptly. E-mail: [rwebbink@illinois.edu](mailto:rwebbink@illinois.edu).*

**III. Action Items**

- A. Updates on Court cases and appeals: It was noted that the State continues to press for an expedited schedule for Supreme Court action (January to March) on its appeal. Concerning repayment of health insurance costs to retirees, it is not clear when this will occur, as there is no decision yet on how much of the pool of funds will be taken off the top to compensate attorneys for their participation, including SUAA attorneys. Tom Conry noted that CMS had held the insurance payments as they came in; failing this, reimbursement would need to be via the Court of Claims.
- B. Legislative Action/Political Action Funds: Terry Ruprecht noted that the legal fund is in the red. It is not clear whether the State office is going to seek additional contributions from members at the time they receive their health insurance reimbursement, although SUAA was key in the fight to continue retiree Health benefits. Rick Schoell reminded us of the need to make our appeals for funds (political action vs legislative action) very clear, as it can get quite confusing, and past separate appeals may have been misunderstood to be repeated appeals for the legal fund. Terry Ruprecht initiated discussion of actions the chapter might take to solicit contributions. Suggestions included a chapter donation (Netter), a chapter match for donations (Webbink), and the possibility of some coordinated appeals among a few chapters which might later be joined by others. Terry Ruprecht noted that the State office might list chapters that provide a match to contributions. Mark Netter noted that the cost of mailing to our members

could be reduced by using email where we have it and direct mail only for members without email addresses in our data base. Tom Conry will take this issue up with the State leadership and staff. Steve Rugg solicited ideas about how we might induce the University to allow us to send out a letter to faculty and staff, since it and they have benefitted by SUAA's actions on the health insurance issue. After discussion of alternatives, including our buying ad space in the News Gazette to solicit contributions, the most appealing alternative was an Op Ed piece in the News Gazette, and perhaps elsewhere.

- C. Sponsorship of Retirement Planning Conference: The chapter has sponsored past retirement planning conferences, in the hope of receiving a list of attendees to solicit for membership. The UI has not provided this due to concern for attendee privacy. However, Athalia Hunt has compared the list of attendees with our membership list and indicated that 24 new members had been gained from among the attendees, out of 248 in attendance. It was moved and seconded (Rugg, Conry) that we continue the former level of support (\$1200) for the 2015 Conference. The motion passed.
- D. Membership Initiatives: The Op Ed piece discussed earlier was one suggestion for the effort to build membership. Bill Williamson suggested that our presence at the long-term employee recognition event was another; he is combing the list for the 25 year and up employees.

#### **IV. Reporting Items**

- A. Membership: Barbara Hartman reported that membership is up 46 members, to 2122, net of 17 who dropped (2 as a result of death). This is the largest increase in quite awhile.
- B. Legislative Committee/Political Action: Rick Schoell expressed his regret at Judy Topinka's sudden death, commenting that Governor Quinn may or may not have the power to appoint someone to the end of his term or beyond; the constitution is not quite clear. He noted that not much will happen in the lame duck session. We should expect pension issues to resurface with the new legislature and governor and need to be prepared. He further reported that he is still meeting with legislators, and the updated fact sheet is in process. He will send it around again.
- C. Communications Committee: There were no nominees for new members of this committee.
- D. Spring Meeting: Based on attendance at the last meeting, a 100-person room will be used. Program possibilities remain those discussed in November, with a legislative panel likely.
- E. Spring Newsletter: Pam Cler indicated she will call for articles in late January, due in mid February. Several members commented that nominees for the EC will be needed before the February meeting.
- F. Benefits Committee: Bill Williamson outlined changes in SURS member advisory committee (SURMAC) and trustees to be expected given expiring terms and gubernatorial nominations to the Board.

#### **V. New Business:** no new business

**VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting.** Meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.