

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
**Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room**  
**<http://www.suaa-ui.org>**  
**Minutes for February 12, 2014**

**Attending:** Gerald Brighton, Gary Engelgau, Athalia Hunt, Jane Loeb, Terri Palumbo, Bob Rich, Steve Rugg, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Ron Webbink, Ginny Waaler, Bill Williamson

### **I. President's Report**

- A. Call to Order by Vice President Terri Palumbo, who chaired the meeting in Terry Ruprecht's absence, at 1:31 p.m.
- B. After correction of several spelling errors, approval of minutes for January 8, 2014 was moved and seconded (Schoell, Engelgau); minutes approved as amended. Bill Williamson volunteered to do the minutes for the next two meetings, as Jane Loeb indicated she would need to miss the March and April meetings.
- C. Review of schedule of meetings for rest of year:
  - (1) Retirement Conference: March 1, 2014.
  - (2) Exec Committee Meetings 2014: March 12, April 9 (subsequent meetings TBA).
  - (3) Spring General Meeting—Sunday, April 13, 2014; location Hawthorn Suites
  - (4) State Directors' meeting: June of 2014 in Springfield (generally held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday and Wednesday of the month)
- D. President's Report was not available due to Terry Ruprecht's absence.

### **II. Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Brighton noted that the \$13,000 Chapter contribution to the SUAA legal defense fund, as well as the \$1200 allocated in support of the Retirement Conference have been paid. It was noted that Treasurer Brighton is phasing out of his duties, and he received heartfelt thanks from members present for his many years of service as Treasurer. Ginny Waaler moved and Bill Williamson seconded acceptance of the treasurer's report; motion passed.

*NOTE: When purchasing anything where an invoice is sent to the UIUC-SUAA Chapter, please have it sent to Gerry Brighton's home address, so that the bill may be paid promptly.*

### **III. Action Items**

- A. EC discussion of SUAA participation in legal action following passage of SB1: Bob Rich reported that the SUAA filing is expected soon. With filings in Cook, Champaign, and Sangamon Counties, there is some effort underway to expedite their movement to the Supreme Court. Consolidation of all suits will occur at some point before they reach the Supreme Court. Steve Rugg reported that fundraising is going well and noted that members of the Urbana-Champaign chapter had contributed about \$38,000 to date.
- B. Spring general meeting—finalizing the program: Steve Rugg reported that the panel consisting of Professors Colombo, Rich, and Reynolds is available and set for April 13<sup>th</sup>, the date of the meeting. The business meeting will include election of new members of the executive committee (EC), but there will not be a proposal for a dues increase presented.
- C. Newsletter editor: Gary Engelgau noted that his term on the EC is ending, and thus we are in need of an Editor for the newsletter beginning with the fall issue. He indicated he would

continue to handle the chapter website, if desired. Discussion of possible Editors ensued, but further discussion and action will be required.

- D. Retirement conference: Athalia Hunt reported that planning for the upcoming Retirement Conference is well underway, and that response has been very strong. Academic HR, Payroll and Benefits, and SURS will all be represented, and SURS has been given extra time this year because of recent changes. Terry Ruprecht will represent SUAA. Because of the possibility of yet further changes to retirement options, she is prepared to deal with last minute materials for the packet of handouts up to a day or two before the meeting. Gary Engelgau suggested, and it was agreed, that he put a mention of the conference clearly labelled as “for current employees” on the chapter website, with a link to her website. Hunt solicited volunteers to man the SUAA table at the conference. Discussion followed concerning handouts the chapter would provide.

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

- A. Membership: In Barbara Hartman’s absence, Terri Palumbo announced that with 10 new members and 10 lost (6 of whom died), membership is steady at 2028 as of the end of January.
- B. Legislative Committee/Political Action: Rick Schoell noted that the legislature is fairly inactive, with primaries upcoming. Bob Rich added that tax reform is likely to be the biggest issue after March 11. Steve Rugg noted that a graduated income tax, which would require a constitutional amendment, is receiving some attention, but is unlikely to happen this spring.
- C. Communications Committee: see IV.E.
- D. Spring meeting: Ginny Waaler noted that the Hawthorn Suites is confirmed for April 13, with 150 the largest room capacity available on that date. After discussion, it was decided that the newsletter notice of the meeting will mention limited seating.
- E. Newsletter: Gary Engelgau reviewed assignments outstanding, with deadline date of February 21.
- F. Nominating committee (Schoell, Beastall, Netter): Rick Schoell reported that with four three-year terms to fill, the committee nominated Terry Ruprecht, Terri Palumbo, Bob Rich, and Jane Loeb. Bill Williamson suggested that we try to move to more staggered terms. Acceptance of the report was moved, seconded and passed.
- G. Benefits committee: Bill Williamson reported that with a large number of expected retirees and some new rules, SURS is allowing more visits than normal (an employee can have a planning session even if it is the second in the year). He also reported on the SURSMAC meeting in January, noting that the powerpoint presentation describing the new Pension Law is now available on the SURS and SUAA web sites. He noted that the change in the effective rate of interest (ERI) affects the amount of overpayment a retiree will receive back, and may be the change that has the largest impact on individuals near retirement.

#### **V. New Business**

- A. Strategic planning: Steve Rugg, who co-chairs SUAA’s strategic planning committee, introduced a first discussion of strategic planning issues beginning with the observation that the state office is overburdened and needs more staff, but current resources are simply not adequate. Initial discussion of strategic planning issues included the need for clarification of staff roles and for agreement on mission and priorities. Increased central mobilization of chapters and of institutions around issues was also suggested.
- B. One year free membership for the first year after retirement: Ginny Waaler moved and Rick Schoell seconded a motion that this be tabled; motion passed.

**VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 12, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.