

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
**Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room**  
**<http://www.suaa-ui.org>**  
**Minutes for May 14, 2014**

**Attending:** Mary Beastall, Gerald Brighton, Thomas Conry, Gary Engelgau, Barbara Hartman, Athalia Hunt, Jane Loeb, Terri Palumbo, Bob Rich, Steve Rugg, Terry Ruprecht, Helen Satterthwaite, Rick Schoell, Ginny Waaler, Ron Webbink, Bill Williamson

**I. Call to Order.** Terry Ruprecht called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

**II. Approval of minutes for April 9, 2014.** The minutes were approved.

**III. Review of schedule of meetings:**

- A. Remaining Exec Committee Meetings 2014:** June 11, August 13, September 10.
- B. SUAA Central Region Meeting, Lincoln Land College:** 1:00 pm, May 14, 2014.
- C. SUAA Directors' meeting:** June 17-18, 2014, Springfield, discussed later.
- D. Big Ten Retiree's Association meeting:** August 8-10; U of Minnesota hosting, <http://www1.umn.edu/umra/index.php#BTNAROHE>, Book hotel early due to Vikings game.

**IV. President's Report**

President Ruprecht stated that the chapter is about to experience a major change: Gerald Brighton, who has kept the chapter's books in fine order and has skilfully shepherded its resources for several decades, is handing the job over to Ron Webbink. He expressed the chapter's thanks to Gerry Brighton, noting that with the length and quality of his service, it is very hard to express our thanks adequately. He also noted another big change for the chapter: Gary Engelgau, who has managed the newsletter and the website, will leave in July. Terry thanked Gary on behalf of the chapter, noting that discussion of the vacant editorial position would follow later in the meeting.

**V. Treasurer's Report:**

Ron Webbink reported on April's receipts and disbursements, the main activity being newsletter expenditures. Acceptance was moved (Rick Schoell), seconded (Bill Williamson), and passed.

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

**VI. Action/Discussion Items**

- A. Nomination of 2014-15 Chapter Officers.** Ruprecht appointed Rich Schoell, Mary Beastall, and Mark Netter to nominate next year's President, VP, and Secretary. Terry Ruprecht will follow up on a possible executive committee vacancy that could be filled by a newsletter editor.
- B. Update on PA98-599 and SUAA lawsuit.** Discussed along with C, below.
- C. Recent tentative agreement (TA) with Attorney General.** Having filed a stay on the whole bill, SUAA subsequently negotiated a partial stay with the Attorney General. This tentative agreement would stay implementation of the provision in the bill causing many early retirements this year. Tom Conry indicated that the organization We Are One has opposed the agreement, and a hearing on the TA is scheduled for today, May 14. The issue has been whether to insist on settling the constitutionality of the whole bill, or serially negotiating on the bill's most oppressive aspects. SUAA opted to provide relief for this year's retirees rather than hold out for the whole bill; We Are One disagreed. Discussion followed on ways to bring SUAA's actions to the attention of current UIUC staff, e.g., via Inside Illinois. Bob Rich noted that AG Madigan is due to file her formal response to the entire lawsuit soon, with a hearing to follow.

**D. State Directors' Meeting, June 17 and 18.** Ruprecht outlined the major issues to be decided at the upcoming Directors' Meeting. He called for volunteers to attend, indicating that those attending would be provided this and a June opportunity to discuss issues and then would vote as they see fit. The constitution and by-laws revisions include regional representation to provide diverse representation from throughout the state. Tom Conry clarified that diversity by institution type is another issue, with the suggestion of two representatives each from the northern, central, and southern regions, and from universities, community colleges, and four-year colleges. By-laws revisions will be presented to eliminate contradictions in the current governing rules. The second controversial proposal outlined by Ruprecht would eliminate the position of Treasurer, combining this function with the position of Executive Director. Discussion followed, with seeming consensus in favor of representation by region and institution type, and considerable concern that the position of Treasurer not be eliminated in order to have dispersed knowledge of budget and disbursements. Discussion of ways to enhance and clarify the position of Treasurer followed, with suggestions that the Treasurer be appointed VP and Chair of the Finance Committee, with responsibility to oversee disbursements as well as budget preparation and presentation.

Bill Williamson described a proposal that would require three regional meetings to elect regional representatives, thus requiring extra expense and work for the overburdened state office, during the legislative session when the office needs to attend to legislative issues. His position has been that these elections should take place at the State meeting. He would also prefer to allow constitutional amendments at the fall meeting. Mary Beastall noted the need for the chapter's Directors to be prepared for this meeting with Amendments. Tom Conry expects that the Parliamentarian will abide by Roberts' Rules, Bruce Applebee will run the meeting, and the constitution will be voted on first. If the amendments to it pass, the Officers will be elected using the new rules; if not, by the old ones. He noted that under the new proposal, Officers would serve for a single year.

## **VII. Reporting Items**

**A. Membership.** Barbara Hartman reported that membership rose from 2039 to 2047, with 21 new members and 13 lost, five of whom died. This marks a steady increase over the last few months.

**B. Legislative Committee.** Rick Schoell reported that the SURS website is a comprehensive source of information on pension-related legislation that has been introduced. He reminded the committee that our local representatives have all been very helpful this year and that thank you notes would be appreciated.

**C. Communications/Newsletter.** Gary Engelgau asked for a summary of the Spring chapter meeting for the website. He reported that the Campus Charity fund drive wants to add their appeal again this year to the fall newsletter. He noted that if they are to pay the printing costs, Upclose would have to agree to separate the charges. As the insert is to be in color, this seems desirable. Ruprecht will pursue this with the campus drive. Bill Williamson asked that if we are to send the newsletter again to all retirees, the campus pay the extra print costs involved in expanding the newsletter from just SUAA members.

Gary Engelgau indicated he would continue with the website via email, although this would involve some delay. This offer was gratefully accepted. He noted that besides doing the newsletter, he has monitored the chapter's email account daily. Discussion of ways to replace his work ensued.

**D. Fall Meeting.** Ginny Waaler indicated that the I Hotel is available. Bob Rich suggested a program about pension reform nationally, i.e., what's been done and how it is working; lawsuits filed and how argued. Possible panelists suggested included Jeff Brown, Bill Mabe (SURS), Avijit Ghosh or Bob Easter on how UI has worked on these problems.

**E. Benefits Committee.** Mary Beastall noted that it would be nice to send Janice Bonneville a thank you note now that she has moved to ISU.

## **VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting**

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m. The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.