

**STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
**UIUC Chapter Executive Committee**  
**Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room**  
**<http://www.suaa-ui.org>**  
**Minutes for May 13, 2015**

**Attending:** Mary Beastall, Pam Cler, Tom Conry, Barbara Hartman, Jane Loeb, Terri Palumbo, Terry Ruprecht, Agnes San Miguel, Mark Netter, Rick Schoell, Ginny Waaler, Ron Webbink, Bill Williamson

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

- A. Call to Order was issued by President Terry Ruprecht at 2:02 p.m.
- B. Approval of minutes for April 8, 2015 was moved, seconded (Schoell, Waaler) and passed.
- C. Review of schedule of meetings:
  - (1) Exec Comm`ittee Meetings 2014-15: June 10, July 8?, August 12.
  - (2) SUAA Directors' meeting: Springfield, June 16-17, 2015, to include bylaw revisions
  - (3) Fall Big 10 Retirees Meeting: East Lansing, MI., August 14-16, 2015.

D. President Ruprecht reported his appointment of Steve Rugg, Rick Schoell, and Tom Conry as the nominating committee for next year's officers. He commented on the election of Fred Giertz to the SURS Board, and thanked committee members for their work on that issue and on setting up the Spring General meeting.

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

Treasurer Webbink noted that this month's financial report indicates very little activity in the past month but nothing else unusual. Acceptance of the report was moved, seconded (Conry, Schoell), and passed.

*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. Spring Meeting follow-up: Attendance was about 70, and although Carol Ammons was unable to stay for the discussion, she sent written responses to the questions. Appreciation was expressed for the high degree of cooperation and mutual respect evident between the two State Senators. Possible speakers for the fall meeting were discussed.
- B. Directors' Meeting, June 16-17: President Ruprecht confirmed continued availability of volunteers to attend and indicated that he would send around materials about the meeting and about issues that are currently under discussion. On the 16<sup>th</sup>, a review of the Supreme Court decision and potential future legislation is the expected agenda. The business meeting will be on the 17<sup>th</sup>, thus that is the day our representatives need to be there in order to vote.
- C. Supreme Court decision on Pension legislation: President Ruprecht noted how strongly and clearly worded the decision is. It was noted, however, that many SUAA members are likely to rely too heavily on this win to protect future pension rights, which will undoubtedly be under attack through future legislative attempts if not via constitutional amendment.
- D. Future state-wide strategies for SUAA: President Ruprecht suggested a primary role should be educating people state-wide about the facts so that they are well known as legislation and/or constitutional amendments are introduced. Rick Schoell reminded us that the higher education network of contacts between chapters and their campuses and among campuses will again need to be pressed into service. It was suggested that since the arguments concerning pension costs

generally involve the business climate in Illinois, it would be useful to develop arguments concerning the state's need for a well-educated workforce. Along with the need for reasonable fringe benefits, including pensions, to attract and retain topnotch educators, a statewide education campaign should also make clear that state workers do not have social security coverage. That state pensions are not taxed in this state but in few others should also be addressed.

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

- A. Membership: At the end of March, membership stood at 2117. This was down 8 from 2125 due to 6 new members and 14 lapsed members, of whom 6 had died. By the end of April, 8 members had been added but 19 lost (5 had died), yielding an end of April membership of 2106. Discussion focused on the need to remind retirees of the continuing need for support of SUAA. A DI ad, a one page special "Annuitant", and an article in Inside Illinois were all suggested.
- B. Legislative Committee/Political Action: A number of legislative possibilities were discussed, including a pension bill put forward by Senate President Cullerton.
- C. Communications Committee: A link on the SUAA UIUC website to the Supreme Court decision was suggested.
- D. Fall Meeting: see earlier discussion.
- E. Fall Newsletter: Pam Cler will send around a tentative timetable for production of the fall issue.
- F. Benefits Committee: nothing to report, except that attempts to end the employee tuition waiver seem to be dead.

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

**VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting.** Meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.