

STATE UNIVERSITIES ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
UIUC Chapter Executive Committee
Clark-Lindsey, Simon Dining Room
<http://www.suaa-ui.org>
Minutes for April 8, 2015

Attending: Mary Beastall, Pam Cler, Tom Conry, Barbara Hartman, Athalia Hunt, Jane Loeb, Terri Palumbo, Bob Rich, 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 1:33 p.m.
- B. Approval of minutes for March 11, 2015 was moved, seconded (Williamson, Schoell) and passed.
- C. Review of schedule of meetings:
 - (1) By-laws regional review meeting: Springfield, April 13, 2015
 - (2) Exec Committee Meetings 2014-15: May 13, June 10.
 - (3) Spring UIUC General Membership Meeting: April 26, I Hotel.
 - (4) SUAA Directors' meeting: Springfield, June 16-17, 2015, to include bylaw revisions
 - (5) Fall Big 10 Retirees Meeting: East Lansing, MI., August 14-16, 2015.

D. President Ruprecht reported that regional meetings are being held to allow discussion of proposed bylaw revisions in advance of the June vote on the revisions. He encouraged those who will represent the chapter at the June meeting to attend the April regional meeting if possible. These revisions will combine the currently contradictory Constitution and Bylaws into one, so that tracking the changes proposed will be difficult.

President Ruprecht indicated that subsequent to the March meeting, he became aware of a U of I Ethics ruling that the SURS election is not open to public vote and not a political election, and therefore not governed by the rules limiting SURS advocacy/endorsement activities. As a result the chapter did endorse Fred Giertz's candidacy. The emailing process took longer than anticipated. Terry Ruprecht will do some further checking on the problems involved in the hopes that a faster procedure can be in place for future needs for fast mailings to members with email addresses.

II. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Webbink noted that this month's financial report contains a correction of a very small typo in the previous month's report. He noted that newsletter printing costs were low, at less than \$800. Acceptance of the report was moved, seconded and approved.

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.

III. Action Items

- A. Newsletter: Pam Cler reported that the newsletter is out. All present agreed the new format is terrific. It was moved and seconded (Rugg, Conry) that her name be displayed on the masthead as editor. While no formal vote was taken, there was clear consensus on this question. It was also noted that Pam Cler's name had been inadvertently left off the Executive Committee membership list.
- B. Directors' Meeting, June 16-17: President Ruprecht reminded the EC that he cannot be present. He asked for and received volunteers to attend.

- C. Update on Kanerva litigation legal fees: Tom Conry reported that there has been no decision yet on the question of legal fees.
- D. Update on Pension revision litigation: While the court has not yet ruled, its ruling seems likely to strike down the legislation and thus to spark an effort to amend the constitution. Discussion focused on strategy for working against a revision of the non-impairment clause. It was noted that the Governor seems to support payment of retiree annuities, but would prefer to revise or eliminate the AAI. Bob Rich volunteered to work on a response to a likely argument that the automatic annual increase (AAI) should be eliminated. It was noted, for example, that state pensions are in lieu of social security, which has a procedure for increase over time. Several noted that the 3% AAI and the inflation rate have been very close over the recent past. Rich noted that pensions are a small component of Illinois' structural deficit, and that we need to educate the public about this. Waaler noted the need to prepare arguments for members of the public who are without pensions. Rick Schoell went on to suggest that we consider all possible alternatives so that we are ready to offer topics that we are willing to discuss. In discussion, taxing annuities and going to a CPI-based annual increase were suggested as possibilities, but it was noted that SUAA might lose membership by indicating willingness to discuss these. Nonetheless there was agreement that we should be prepared to support "solutions" that we can live with.
- E. Spring general meeting: The panel will consist of Representative Ammons and Senators Rose and Bennett. Steve Rugg will draft questions for the legislative panelists and Rick Schoell will deliver them to their offices in advance of the meeting. Linda Brookhart will provide an update on the lawsuits. Bill Williamson presented a draft of the program.
- F. E mail to chapter members: Discussed earlier.

IV. Reporting Items

- A. Membership: At the end of February, membership stood at 2125, but a report for March was not yet available. Barbara Hartman reported that Terri Palumbo had sought and received clarification that current employees will continue to be able to pay dues via payroll deduction.
- B. Legislative Committee/Political Action: discussed earlier.
- C. Communications Committee: nothing to report.
- D. Spring Meeting: see earlier discussion.
- E. Spring Newsletter: discussed earlier.
- F. Benefits Committee: Bill Williamson reported on the April 6 Senate Faculty Benefits Committee meeting. The new SURS Executive Director, Bryan Lewis, is now in place, and the long-vacant position of Chief Operating Officer has been filled. The biggest legislative issue is currently H-0403 which would repeal tuition waivers for children of long-term employees of state universities. It was also reported that even longer delays are expected for payments of medical and dental bills covered by state employees' group insurance plans.

V. New Business: no new business

VI. Adjournment and Next Meeting. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. Next meeting will be Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Clark-Lindsey Simon Dining Room.