

GSU Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA)

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2020

Board Members (X = present):

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Essex	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheryl Jones Harper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Karl Harrison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Annie Jaso
<input type="checkbox"/> Larry Levinson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joan Johns Maloney	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laura Owens
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michelle Sebasco	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steve Shih	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jane Wells	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> William Wilkinson
<input type="checkbox"/> Terri Winfree	<input type="checkbox"/> Addison Woodward	<input type="checkbox"/> Colleen R. Ellis (Past Chapter President)	

Guests/members: Charlie Olson.

	Discussion	Outcomes/Actions Needed
Review of Prior Meeting Minutes:	Bill called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm. Karl was added as an attendee on October 15. All Board meeting minutes are posted on the GSU-SUAA News Blog www.gsusuaa.org	October 15 meeting minutes were approved with Jane and Steve abstaining as non-attendees.
Welcome to New Board Member:	Charlie Olson was elected by acclamation and welcomed as our newest GSU-SUAA Board member.	The GSU-SUAA Board now has a full complement of 15 voting members.
Discussion of Possible Need to Change Banks for Our Chapter Treasury:	Jane (Treasurer) is having significant difficulty setting up an online mobile phone option for accessing our Bank Financial Treasury account at a distance from their branches as a regional bank. She would like to consider moving our Treasury account to a larger, more global institution, such as Citibank, Chase or Fifth Third, that uses more sophisticated, user friendly virtual software. A motion was made and seconded to allow Jane and Bill to move the account as necessary if problems with Bank Financial persist.	The motion to allow Jane and Bill to move the Treasury account, if deemed necessary, was unanimously approved.
Blunt Assessment of Fallout from Defeat of the "Fair Tax" Amendment:	Although not present due to a time conflict with a CTBA Board Meeting at the same time, Addison conveyed his bleak assessment for IL budgets going forward for many years due to the recent defeat of the "Fair Tax" Amendment. It seems almost inevitable that state retirement pension systems will eventually come back into focus as possible targets for expenditure reductions.	SUAA and its various chapters will need to remain constantly vigilant to detect and forestall any such efforts.

	Discussion	Outcomes/Actions Needed
Membership Report: (Jane)	Jane enrolled a new member—Blaise Lukasiewicz working in IT. Jane solicited help contacting a variety of recently lapsed members, either personally or via follow-up e-mail. Our annual membership Drive has been postponed until after the New Year during late January & February of 2021.	Annie will contact Jennifer Armstrong, Larry will reach out to Mary Bookwalter and Bill will reach out to Margaret Neumann and Amy & Ben Wang.
Major Focus on Deficiencies and Needs of Tier 2 Employees begins in 2021:	With the assistance of Michelle, Jane will contact Linda Brookhart at SUAA Springfield to learn how they plan to address these Tier 2 problems and to learn whether there might be a Zoom presentation forthcoming that will outline same. In particular, legal jeopardy under the “Safe Harbor” provision of the SSA should be discussed, as well as relevant comparisons to other current public university pension systems throughout the country. Especially vexing is the implication that a Unit A faculty member who receives a terminal contract rather than tenure in Year 7 would NOT vest and therefore receive only half their accumulated pension account upon separation.	Partner with SUAA Springfield to pool resources toward developing the most effective possible approach for resolving these inequities.
Other Potential Issues for Spring Term:	If there is a SUAA Region 1 Meeting (probably online via Zoom), Karl and Michelle volunteered to attend, representing GSU-SUAA, and report back. Possible topics could revolve around SUAA’s role dealing with conflicts in higher education exacerbated by competition for ever scarcer resources: Mission fulfillment vs. wages; programs vs. operations; retired vs. working employees; and, of course, Tier 1 vs. Tier 2.	Karl & Michelle will look for and respond to any such SUAA Region 1 Meeting announcement.
Co-sponsorship with the Foundation of Possible Activities in May/June (either in-person or online)	Could involve some sort of event at the Center for Cultural and Performing Arts.	Maintain contact with Laura Mannion at the Foundation as the new year develops.
Adjournment:	Next GSU-SUAA Board Meeting will be on January 25 th 2021 (Fourth Monday, as previously agreed) at Noon. The meeting was adjourned from the Zoom platform at 1:15 pm.	

Submitted by Laura Owens