

EIU Annuitants Association Board Meeting Minutes

Scherer Room, MLK Union

June 12, 2014

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Carpenter, Mac Corley, Barb Funk, Vicki Hampton, Mary Anne Hanner, Bob Jorstad, Ellen Keiter, Frank McCormick, Jill Nilsen, Doug Sloat.

GUESTS PRESENT: President Bill Perry and Kathy Reed (ITS)

I. **Call to Order:** President Nilsen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. **Approval of March 6, 2014 and May 8, 2014 Minutes:**

ACTION: The minutes of March 6, 2014 and May 8, 2014 were approved with the following correction to the March 6 minutes: in item **VI.B**, line 4, p. 3, the date "June 10" was corrected to "**July 10**" (D. Carpenter/J. Sterling).

III. **Treasurer's Report:** Barb Funk distributed the following documents: "**Financial Report of EIUAA Annual Luncheon 2014**," "**Financial Report of EIUAA Annual Luncheon 2013**," "**Treasurer's Report for March 31, 2014** (Prepared June 11, 2014)," "**Treasurer's Report for May 31, 2014** (Prepared June 11, 2014)," and "**Treasurer's Report for April 30, 2014** (Prepared June 11, 2014)." She called attention to the balance at the end of May in the amount of **\$1,767** and remarked that our expenses for "Entertainment" at our April 2014 luncheon amounted to \$300 more than we were charged for our (free) entertainment in 2013.

IV. **Reports:**

A. **Membership:** Ellen Keiter reported as follows: (1) We currently have **725** members. (As of the end of April, SUAA reported that we had "somewhat" fewer than this.) (2) As of January 1, the procedure for EIUAA dues deductions for current employees was changed from a single annual deduction of \$36 for each member to automatic monthly or semi-monthly deductions totaling \$36 over 12 months. This has required an adjustment in the monthly membership information and dues allocations we send to SUAA. (3) Recruitment remains a "challenge": only five persons renewed their memberships in response to a total of 18 notifications. (4) Ellen and her committee have attempted to send a solicitation to current employees via the EIU e-mail system but the request was

not approved. (5) Of the recruitment brochures distributed at events honoring this year's retirees, only one has been returned together with the sender's membership application. (6) The Membership committee has met with Linda Holloway of the EIU Benefits Office to discuss how EIUAA member recruitment might fit into the activities of that office. She indicated her willingness to (a) alert EIUAA of events, such as SURS visits to campus, at which we could provide membership information, (b) distribute the EIUAA membership brochure to retiring and resigning EIU employees with their clearance sheets, and (c) look into setting up an automated mechanism for sending to EIUAA the names and email addresses of resigning and retiring employees.

- B. gEvents:** Julie Sterling reported that she is working with the Foundation to determine EIUAA meeting dates for next year. She and her committee will explore ways of keeping costs under control when she books our entertainment for next year's luncheon. (Ellen added that we had eighteen no shows at this year's luncheon.) Julie has purchased ample supplies of bottled water and granola bars for our July 10 Chapter meeting in the Lantz Building.
- C. Communications:** Vicki Hampton reported that she and her committee will begin work on the Fall newsletter soon. She expects that "small changes" will be made in the newsletter's formatting.
- D. Scholarship:** No report.
- E. Legislative:** Jill Nilsen reported that the spring legislative session was "very quiet." She saw movement of some organizations (but not SUAA) to support extension of the temporary income tax. Sue Kaufman and Hank Davis attended a meet and greet session for Republican gubernatorial candidate Bruce Rauner at which no opportunity was provided for questions and answers. Jill herself attended a similar function, for Senator Dale Righter, on May 14 at the Life Span Center. On that occasion Senator Righter opined that the legislature is "finished with pension legislation." Jill added that SURS is anticipating that annuitants will be granted another 3% compounded annual increase in January 2014.
- F. Nominations:** Vicki Hampton recommended that Hank Davis, John Flynn, and Dianna Ensign replace our three Board members who will be stepping down in 2015.

ACTION: The Board approved the following persons for Board membership in 2015: Hank Davis, Dianna Ensign, and John Flynn (V. Hampton/M. A. Hanner).

- G. Ad Hoc Audit:** Barb Funk reported that *ad hoc* committee members Ellen Keiter and Mac Corley have audited Barb's Treasurer's books and have signed a statement giving Barb's financial records their approval. Barb added that Ellen noted several discrepancies, most of them now reconciled, in the financial reports Barb received from SUAA.

ACTION: The Board unanimously approved the *ad hoc* Audit Committee's report (B. Jorstad/M. Corley).

V. Old Business:

- A. SUAA – Lawsuit, Annual Meeting:** Jill Nilsen reported that she has no new information concerning the lawsuit. She has sent Board members copies of two proposed revisions of SUAA's Constitution, together with a copy of the current Constitution and ancillary documents pertinent to the proposed revisions.

ACTION: Following discussion, the Board recommended that EIUAA's four voting representatives at the annual SUAA meeting vote "**NO**" in response to both proposed revisions of the Constitution (D. Sloat/D. Carpenter).

- B. July 10th Chapter Meeting:** Jill Nilsen reported that communications with Recreation Center personnel regarding the July 10 Chapter meeting have been especially helpful. Maranda Schaljo (instructor in the Department of Kinesiology's Adult Fitness program) will discuss the importance of exercise in maintaining seniors' physical and mental fitness, illustrating her remarks with demonstrations of pertinent exercises. Following the presentation, Sarah Dougherty (interim Co-Director of the Recreation Center) will lead attendees in a tour of the Recreation Center.

- C. 2015 Dues:** Barb Funk indicated her reluctance to increase EIUAA dues in the current year. The matter will be revisited next spring.

- D. Survivor Benefits Liaison:** Doug Sloat agreed to serve as Survivor Benefits liaison. He indicated that as a preliminary step he would like to make a printable version of SURS' survivor benefits forms available on the EIUAA website. He will

explore the feasibility of doing so with Vicki Hampton. Jan Fisher and Bonnie Shackley will also serve on the Survivor Benefits committee.

VI. New Business:

A. Presentation by President Perry and Kathy Reed Regarding Potential Changes to EIU.EDU Email Addresses for Annuitants:

President Perry reported that the planned “migration” of EIU students, current employees, and annuitants from the Zimbra e-mail platform to Microsoft’s Office 365 will save Eastern \$100,000 annually -- and will give each user of the new e-mail platform access to twenty-five gigabytes. ITS will apprise annuitants of the timetable for the migration. The ITS website includes a link to “Office 0365” (orange tab) in which basics of the new platform are explained, and Kathy Reed has accepted President Nilsen’s invitation to make a presentation on “365” at our October 9 Chapter meeting. Ms. Reed will also send Jill basic information on using 365 which will be forwarded to annuitants. Vicki Hampton will participate in a pilot study of the new platform. Ellen Keiter will send Kathy Reed a list of the names of deceased annuitants for the last six years so that ITS can update its own list of annuitants’ e-mail addresses.

Concerning other developments at EIU, President Perry explained that \$8 million will need to be cut from the base budget, mainly through attrition. He noted that enrollment is down and that the University of Illinois’ decision to “go deeper into its pool” of undergraduate applicants, together with recent declines in the number of Illinois high school graduates, has contributed to the decline in our numbers. New Adult and Continuing Education programs that have been put together by the College of Education and Professional Studies should attract additional non-traditional students. The new Bachelor of Music degree recently approved by the Board is also expected to attract additional students. The President hopes Eastern will be “back to 10,000 [students] nine years from now.”

B. Presidential Search Advisory Committee: President Nilsen will serve as the annuitant member of the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, which will likely be chaired by Joe Dively. The search will commence in the fall.

C. October Chapter Meeting: The October Chapter meeting will be held at the Neal Welcome Center. To accommodate the expected audience, rows of chairs,

rather than our customary tables and chairs, will be set up.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank McCormick, Secretary