

EIU Annuitants Association Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 9, 2023, Neal Welcome Center

Present: Steve Lane, Amy Lynch, Margaret Messer, Marita Metzke, Kathy Reed, Nora Pat Small, Rich Wandling

Absent: Lisa Dallas, Cathy Engelkes, Billie Rawlings, Gloria Leitschuh, Wendy Long

1. Call to Order

President Rich Wandling called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

2. Minutes of September 7, 2023 Board Meeting

Lane provided the motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2023 EIUAA Board meeting. Small seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report

The report shows a beginning balance for October of \$5704.19. Expenses paid during October included: \$145 to Katie Ansulment for travel expense, \$1000 donations to the EIU scholarship fund and \$1000 to the SUAA legal fund. The report indicates an ending balance of \$3941.23. Amy Lynch has ordered new checks for the account, the process had to be completed at the bank. The cost is \$85.37 for 80 checks. Lynch has been verifying the process for the handling of the bank statements. Motion to approve the treasurer's report provided by Metzke, second provided by Messer. The report was unanimously approved.

During the scholarship committee report there was discussion surrounding the suggestion of donating either an additional \$500 or \$1000 to the EIU scholarship fund. Lynch made a motion to donate an additional \$500 to the fund, Metzke seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

4. Committee Reports

a. Membership—Wendy Long

Rich Wandling stated EIUAA had 542 members at the end of August and 541 at the end of September. These numbers were obtained from a report from SUAA that EIUAA officers may access.

b. Communications & Newsletter—Wendy Long

Wendy is requesting submissions for the newsletter. Committee reports and special interest news should be sent to Wendy. Wandling will ask Wendy to

send out a request for submissions. Wendy has made two updates to the website, the 2024 meeting schedule and language on “Join Us” section about why people should join. Board members should look at the website, determine if any changes or fine tuning are needed.

c. Legislative – Rich Wandling

The SURS newsletter contained a table outlining the 2024 SURS appropriations relative to previous years. In recent years, SURS has been fully funded as opposed to just the minimum required. Also SB1235 changes the way service credit is calculated, affecting adjunct faculty. The Champaign Urbana News-Gazette reported the Illinois bond rating had moved up to A category indicating increased confidence in Illinois’ investment portfolio.

d. Scholarship – Nora Pat Small

The committee will become active again in January when notice is sent to EIUAA, the university newsletter and EIUAA facebook regarding applications. Applications will be taken till March 15th with a decision occurring in April. The EIU Foundation created a video of all scholarship recipients showing the recipient expressing their gratitude.

e. Events – Billie Rawlings and Gloria Leitchcuh

No report this meeting.

f. Nominations – Rich Wandling

Committee members are: Rich Wandling, Nora Pat Small and Wendy Long. Positions to be elected for 2024 are: President, President-elect, Secretary and Treasurer. The committee is prepared to get support for Reed for Secretary and Messer for Treasurer.

Lynch moved that the Board accept the nominations committee’s recommendations, Lane seconded. The recommendations were unanimously accepted. The committee is continuing to work on the President-elect position. Any board member interested in the position should contact Rich Wandling. A vote was taken to affirm Nora Pat Small as President, she was unanimously affirmed

g. Committee Membership Updates (as needed)

Look at any updates needed and relay them to Wendy Long.

5. SUAA Fall Delegates Meeting Report – Nora Pat Small

SUAA would like to see more delegates attend the meeting.

SURS presented information on funding. The SUAA treasurer's report indicated if membership does not increase, SUAA will be faced with a deficit during 2024. The SUAA budget is on a calendar year basis. Possible ways to remedy the situation included an increase in dues by a couple of dollars or take more money from each chapter without increasing dues. Boosting membership would negate having to do either of those actions. Larry Clack, the treasurer, stated most costs are fixed costs, there is no place to cut costs. To avoid deficit would require the enrollment of 700 new members.

The legislative platform is available on the SUAA website and was approved during the meeting. The primary goal is to protect pensions.

SUAA is challenged with the current membership trends. The concept is additional members equate to additional influence. Andy Small, the membership chair of SUAA mentioned they had 16,500 members at one time. Current membership is 13,000.

Dates for the 2024 meeting have not yet been posted.

6. Membership Recruitment Strategies

Rich Wandling will work with EIU print shop regarding the number of postcards to print.

Steve Lane will meet with Linda Holloway to determine whether EIU's Human Resources department may distribute them to new and retiring employees.

Joliet Community College says they have more non-faculty signing up for membership than any other group.

7. February 22, 2024 Chapter Meeting Speaker

A legislative aid for Senator Chapin Rose has contacted EIUAA regarding speaking at a meeting. Rich Wandling will contact his office and determine if he's available for the February meeting.

8. Graduation Regalia Donations "Closet" Idea

Rich Wandling will work with the EIU Foundation to fine tune the process including storage of the items. We need to encourage people to donate. Faculty members may want a form for tax purposes, the Foundation would prepare and provide the form.

9. EIUAA Website Review/Updates

Links to SUAA and the legislative platform need to be added to the website. Send any suggestions to Rich Wandling, he will coordinate with Wendy Long.

10. Other Business

No other business

11. Adjournment

Lane provided the motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Reed – EIUAA Secretary