

EIU Annuitants Association Chapter Meeting Minutes

Neal Welcome Center

October 9, 2014

- I. **Call to Order and Remarks by President Perry:** President Nilsen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., welcomed attendees, and introduced President Bill Perry, who remarked that Eastern has recently been ranked fourth among regional Midwestern universities in the Midwest by *U.S. News and World Report*, to which he added, “Now we’re smaller and better.”

- II. **Presentation re: E-Mail Migration by Kathy Reed, Assistant Vice-President, Information Technology Services, and Cay Kolling, ITS Program Assistant:**

Kathy Reed began by explaining that annuitants’ “migration” from the Zimbra e-mail platform to Microsoft’s Office 365 platform will begin on **November 12**. She encouraged us **NOT** to attempt to use our e-mail on that day, noting that only our new e-mail would be available to us on November 12. The migration will be completed on the morning of **November 13**, at which point we may commence using our new e-mail system. On November 13, ITS staff will be available in the Neal Welcome Center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to answer our questions about the new system. An additional source of help is the Campus Tech Support helpline (**581-HELP**). We can find a preview of the new system on the ITS website. (Click on the orange “0365” tab to access the preview.) Office 365 will give us a larger mailbox (50GB), our e-mail addresses and passwords will remain the same as our current ones, and the new platform will save the University \$150,000 per year.

Cay Kolling amplified Ms. Reed’s remarks. She explained that to use Office 365 we will go to the EIU webpage and click on PantherMail (at the top), then in the upper left corner click on the link for Microsoft Office 365 migration information. The link is <http://www.eiu.edu/its/helpdesk/o365fs/>. For help with individual questions we can go to the User Services office in the basement of the Student Services Building between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Or we can have a live chat by going to the following link: <http://www.eiu.edu/its/helpdesk/livechat/>, where a technician will be able to assist us. If it becomes necessary, the technician may ask to access your computer remotely. Because our group distribution lists will not be transferred to the new system, Ms. Kolling recommends that we print out our lists before November 12 and re-create them after the migration to 365 is completed. In

addition to e-mail, Office 365 will give us access to Office Online (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote). Ms. Kolling praised the helpfulness of Tom Grissom's blog postings on Office 365 and promised to send Vicki Hampton a link to the blog. The link will be forwarded to annuitants sometime in the near future.

III. July 10, 2014 EIUAA Chapter Meeting Minutes: Frank McCormick briefly summarized the July 10, 2014 Chapter meeting minutes and reported that the Board approved the minutes at its September 11, 2014 meeting.

IV. Treasurer's Report: Barb Funk reported that our income for September was \$613.06. September expenses amounted to \$509.20. Our balance on August 31, 2014 was \$2,535.04; the balance on September 30, 2014 was \$2,638.90. Barb added that although our income and expenses remain fairly stable, we were recently informed by the Accounting Office that in the future we will have to pay for EIU catering services. In the past, we have charged these expenses to our \$2,000 account from the University. After review, however, the Accounting Office stipulated that the account is to be used for printing and postage only.

ACTION: The Treasurer's report was accepted by voice vote (H. Davis/B. Whittenbarger).

V. Committee Reports:

A. Membership: Ellen Keiter reported that we currently have 727 members. She added that (1) our membership goal remains 800, and that (2) she had brochures and membership forms available to give to interested non-members and members in attendance. Mary Anne Hanner announced the following opportunity to enjoy a free lunch: EIUAA members who bring a non-member to the October 2014 Chapter meeting and/or the February 2015 Chapter meeting **and have the non-member join EIUAA/SUAA** will have their names entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to What's Cookin' in Charleston. The new member(s)' name(s) will also be entered.

B. Events: Julie Sterling reported that the Fall **New Horizons** newsletter lists all of our EIUAA events for the coming year – including our April 24, 2015 luncheon at the LifeSpan Center. Details concerning the EIUAA scholarship are also posted in

the newsletter.

- C. **Communications:** Vicki Hampton reported as follows: (1) the Fall ***New Horizons*** newsletter was issued on July 9; (2) thanks and applause are due John Kilgore for his contribution to the new formatting of the newsletter; and (3) a non-member listserv is being set up. Vicki then presented the following slate of new Board members for approval by the Chapter: **Hank Davis, Dian Ensign, and John Flynn.**

ACTION: The slate of new members was accepted as proposed (J. Lynch/D. Maurer).

- D. **Scholarship:** Bob Jorstad reported that offspring of EIU annuitants and employees are eligible to apply for the EIUAA scholarship. The deadline for application is December 1. Scholarship details are supplied on the EIU Annuitants Association website.
- E. **Legislative:** Jill Nilsen reported that (1) the fall veto session is set for November 19, 20 and 21 and December 2, 3, and 4; (2) concerning pension litigation, the Sangamon County Circuit Court decided on October 8 to first consider the arguments of the We Are One Illinois coalition and other plaintiffs who argue that the Pension Protection Clause renders SB1 unconstitutional. Argument is scheduled for November 20; (3) if the state Supreme Court eventually decides that SB1 is unconstitutional, it is likely that that the legislature will take up alternative cost-cutting or revenue-enhancing legislation. Jill thanked her Legislative Committee members – Jeff Lynch, Hank Davis, and Sue Kaufman – for their contributions to the work of the committee in 2014. Regarding the Presidential Search Advisory Committee, she noted that for the first time an annuitant (Jill Nilsen) has been invited to serve on the committee, which has held two meetings thus far. A position description has been drawn up and published on the EIU website and in the ***Chronicle of Higher Education***. Jill encouraged annuitants to attend the on-site candidate interview sessions, scheduled for the first week of January.

VI. **Old Business:** None.

VII. **New Business:**

- A. **CMS Meeting:** Annuitants are invited to attend a CMS meeting on **October 22** in **Unique Suites** to discuss Medicare Advantage options. (The current Medicare Advantage contract will continue in effect for two more years.)

- B. **2015 EIUAA Chapter Meeting Dates:** February 26, April 24 (**Luncheon**), July 9, October 8.

- C. **Recognition of Board Members:** President Nilsen expressed thanks to the following Board members for their service to the Association: **Ellen Keiter** (Membership Committee Chair), **Frank McCormick** (Secretary), and **Dan Carpenter** (designated EIUAA Photographer) – all of whose terms on the Board end in December, **Barb Funk**, who will step down from her duties as Treasurer in December but will continue as a Board member next year, and **Julie Sterling**, who will continue as a Board member in 2015 but will step down from her role as Past President in December.

- D. **Introduction of New Officers:** Jill Nilsen introduced the following new officers, whose terms on the Board will begin in 2015: **Hank Davis** (Treasurer), **Dian Ensign** (Secretary), **Mary Anne Hanner** (President Elect and Membership Committee Chair), and **Vicki Hampton** (President). **Jill Nilsen** will serve as Past President next year.

VIII. Other:

- A. Dave Maurer announced that the Neal Welcome Center needs volunteers. Persons interested in volunteering are encouraged to contact Nancy Zytka at Neal.

- B. John Kilgore announced that the information attributed to Alan Baharlou on p. 4 of the most recent **New Horizons** newsletter is inaccurate. At the Secretary's request, John amplified this announcement in a subsequent e-mail, in which he wrote, "The paragraph of news that is listed for Alan Baharlou [in the 'News from Our Members' section of the newsletter] should in fact be credited to Dan Bolin and wife Karen. It is Dan and Karen, not Alan and Carlene, who recently celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary and have been wintering in Florida. The Communications Committee regrets the error, which will be corrected in the online version of New Horizons."

IX. Adjournment: President Nilsen adjourned the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Frank McCormick, Secretary