



## Staff Senate Minutes

April 13, 2016 – 1:15 p.m.

7<sup>th</sup> Street Underground Loft, MLK Union

Quorum Present

**Senators Present:** Angie Campbell, Shawn Peoples, Melissa Coleman, Cindy Starwalt, Suzann Bennett, Tony Craven, Tina Jenkins, Renee Kerz, Peggy Brown, B. James Griffin, Marita Metzke, Jody Stone, and Mike Wayne.

**Guest:** Rhonda Nichols, Michele Morgan, Paul McCann, Tim Zimmer, Jone Zieren, and John Flynn

**Senators Absent:** Jonathan Hunt, Melissa Gordon, and Joann Daugherty

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Peoples at 1:17 p.m.

**Guests addressed senate:** Jone Zieren and John Flynn from the State University Annuitant's Association (SUAA) addressed the senate. The Staff Senate was informed that a member does not have to be retired to join SUAA. The main reason to join the association is dissemination of information. Many employees only get information from the media which may or may not be correct. The association provided up-to-date accurate information since they have a representative in Springfield that receives the information first hand.

Currently, the State of Illinois owes \$110 billion dollars to the pension fund. It will take 40 – 50 years to correct this deficit depending on contributions and interest each year. SURS has less to invest which means less interest on the investments. Employee contributions are mandatory but the state is not fulfilling its part. The state tried to decrease medical benefits for retirees but the State Supreme Court ruled they could not. The cost to bring this lawsuit was \$760,000. Five different groups including SUAA were plaintiffs in the suit.

Jone and John believe that communication is the key reason to join the SUAA. We would get up-to-date information on key bills pending that impact current employees and well as retirees. SURS cannot keep info current since they are not political and don't have up-to-date information. CMS is a government office so can only give the state's opinion.

The more members SUAA has, the stronger it becomes. The cost to join is only \$38.00 per year. This can be done through payroll deduction.

There is an annual SUAA luncheon scheduled for Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 at the Lifespan Center. Cost is \$9.50 and you must RSVP to the Brainard House.

You can learn more at the SUAA website <http://www.suaa.org/>.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion to approve the March minutes was made by Senator Kerz. It was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senator Stone. The minutes from the March meeting were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Current balance is \$300.00.

**Committee Reports:**

- A. **Elections** – Today is the deadline to submit names for the ballot. Currently we have 4 AFSCME; 2 A&P; 2 negotiated FP&M; 1 non-negotiated; and 0 UPD names that have been submitted. Elections are set for April 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. An email reminder will be sent to all staff.
- B. **Committees** – with all the recent staff changes, committees have not be active this year. Many of the committees are driven by other areas of the campus. When things settle down, the committees should be more active.

**Constituent Reports:**

**AFSCME 981** – AFSCME and the Governor are still in negotiations regarding health benefits and the employee cost of the benefits. AFSCME has asked for an arbitrator. The governor wants to double or triple the employee premium costs. Open enrollment for health benefits will be in May as always but once the health benefits negotiations are resolved, there will be another open enrollment period. Everyone will have to elect new benefits during this period. It is anticipated that employees can select from a lower cost health plan that has an extremely high deductible or keep their current plan with a significant increase in premium. It was asked if employees could opt out if they had other insurance and if dual state employee couples could carry one policy instead the two as they are currently required. We will probably end up with whatever the state believes is the best.

**Unfinished Business:**

- A. **Senate Vacancies/Appointments** – We still have an open UPD position. Lt Hatfill is asking if anyone is interested. For AFSCME 981, Ryan Stark will not be able to fill the position so it will be open until the elections. Mike Wayne is filling the negotiated FP&M position. The Staff Senate voted and approved Senator Wayne filling the position.
- B. **Committee Appointments** – Nothing new.

## **New Business:**

- A. **Updates from President Glassman** – President Glassman stated that the decision to not allow the red flags indicating laid off staff on the Old Main lawn was his decision. He researched when flags had been allowed in the past. The only time this has ever been allowed was for a 9/11 commemorative event. President Glassman was concerned that allowing the staff red flags on the Old Main lawn would set a precedence that could become cumbersome so decided to allow them in the quad where this type of event is allowed without question. He stated it was his decision alone. He was not trying to stop discussion nor stifle anyone. The faculty have agreed to defer approximately \$2 million in salary which will ensure that we make it through the end of the fiscal year without more layoffs.
- B. **Christmas/New Year Holiday** – We have been asked which days we would prefer for the 2016 Christmas/New Year Holiday. The actual days fall on the week-end this year so we can have Friday before and Monday after both or Monday and Tuesday after both. We have to take the Monday after New Year per the IGP. We discussed and decided we would like the Friday before and Monday after. This minimizes the number of leave days to gain the most time off as well as ensuring monthly salaries are not delayed any further.
- C. **Position recall** – The positions that had individuals laid off in the spring still exist though it was said they were eliminated. We will begin recalling positions when appropriations are received. All positions might not be recalled.
- D. **Furlough Policy** – SUCCS is working on a furlough policy that will apply to civil service staff. They have passed an emergency policy but are working on a permanent policy. There are no plans to furlough civil service staff at this time.
- E. **BSW update** – BSWs are now being told that their priority is Bathrooms, Classrooms, and then garbage. It is been rumored that more BSWs will be laid off during the summer. There are no plans to do so at this time.
- F. **Equipment issues** – Taylor only has one working oven, there is concern that this won't be enough with all the summer camps. Also, they are down to only one ice machine. Paul stated this should be taken care of or fixed. Regular repairs should be made.
- G. **Student deposits** – Student deposits are down 25% across the state. We are right where we want to be on applications and acceptances. We just need students to make their deposits. Many parents are waiting to see what happens.
- H. **Nominations** – Nominations for Executive team are next week with voting in June so new officers take office with the new Senators in July.
- I. **FUNDEIU** – A reminder that FUNDEIU is April 30<sup>th</sup> at the Fairgrounds.

## **Questions for the President:**

Send any questions to Senator Peoples.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn made by Senator Campbell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Senator Wayne. Meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Peggy Brown, Secretary.

**Next Meeting May 11, 2016, 7<sup>th</sup> Street Underground Loft, MLK Union, 1:15 p.m.**