

Appendix 2 to the A/P Staff Council Minutes of January 21, 2009

Emeritus and Annuitant Association Report to A/P Staff Council

Web site: <http://www.siu.edu/~siuc-aaa/>

January 21, 2009

Submitted by: JP Dunn

Purpose

The purposes of the Association shall be to protect and foster the rights and privileges of present and future members of SURS, to enhance higher education in Illinois, to assist SIUC in reaching its educational goals, and through volunteer activities and projects, to provide services to its members, to SIUC, and to the Carbondale community and its surrounding area. Campus and community activities of the Association shall be determined by the membership.

Who We Serve

Membership in the Association is open to all retirees of Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC) and to all participants in the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois (SURS), their spouses, or surviving spouses.

Membership and Dues Information for Current Employees

The SIUC Emeritus and Annuitant Association is the local chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA). Membership dues of \$27 include state-level membership dues (\$21) which are sent to SUAA to protect pension funding and to support legislation favorable to annuitants. The remaining \$6 is used to support local chapter activities. Membership is open to retirees/spouses and current employees.

To keep the voice of state university retirees strong in Springfield, we urge all SIUC retirees and current employees to join the Emeritus and Annuitant Association. Our combined numbers with other state university retirees and employees count when it comes to influencing legislation that can have an impact on our pension system and the many benefits that we enjoy. It is not only important to maintain the level of benefits that our current retirees enjoy but to also ensure that future retirees can enjoy the same level of pension benefits. Join us in

supporting the legislative efforts of SUAA and SURS in keeping our pension system strong and secure.

To sign up for membership to the SIUC Emeritus and Annuitant Association you may either

- pay your membership dues annually through SUAA at http://www.suaa.org/suaa_join.htm
- pay your membership dues by SIUC Payroll Deduction <http://www.siu.edu/~humres/forms/AnnuitantDeductionForm.pdf>.

Benefits & Legislative – The Illinois legislative Fall Veto Session will start the week of November 11, 2008, and several pension issues are anticipated to be brought up.

- The Constitutional Convention was voted down in the last election,
- SURS investments are pretty stable because of conservative investment practices,
- The SUAA Executive Committee will deal with salary and benefit adjustments for the SUAA office's administrative personnel, support staff, and lobbyist.

Emeritus Faculty Organization – It was noted that Al Melone gave an outstanding Faculty Lecture, titled *The Presidency on Steroids: How We Lost Our Way and the Lessons We Should Relearn* on October 28, 2008, which stimulated a lively discussion following the presentation.

SUAAction – Carolyn Donow reported SUAAction Committee group is currently a 'Work in Progress' and is getting smaller in numbers at the state level which is a positive move. She reported that SUAA Executive Director Lockhart feels the SUAA Office and the SUAAction group need to have clear cut explanations of their responsibilities and roles because the two must be separate identities with definite lines between the two.

- University committees. Currently our EAA chapter has representatives that sit on the Student Recreation Center Board, the University Joint Benefits Committee, and the Emeritus Faculty Organization has a representative on the Faculty Senate. The Board discussed whether there was enough membership interest to serve on

additional University Committees. Carolyn then raised the question to the Board whether they wanted to ask the Chancellor to be named a Constituency Group. The Board discussed the Pro's/Con's of being considered a Constituency Group with no action being taken.

I have attached a copy of the SUAA Mini Briefing from the State Universities Annuitants Association.

