

SUAA Board Minutes

September 7, 2023 Zoom Meeting

Members present: McLean, Brown, Barker, Pano, Ramsey, Dallinger, Werling, Melz-Jennings, Jones, Downin, Blackledge

The meeting was called to order by President McLean at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.

1. The August meeting minutes were approved - Brown/Jones.
2. The August treasurer's report was approved to be filed for audit – Downin/Ramsey. Melz-Jennings explained our insurance company merged and is now through First Mid Insurance with a premium due in April 2024.
3. Notes/announcements for this meeting - Nine items - McLean
 - McLean reported that he and Farr manned the SUAA table at the New Employee Orientation on August 15th. They spoke with at least 12 to 15 new employees
 - McLean had set up a meeting with Paul Edwards to discuss our relationship with HR but it was cancelled and McLean will now meet with him on Monday.
 - The Fall Luncheon is on October 10th. President Huang has agreed to attend. Pano will address legislative and political issues for the luncheon attendees.
 - Steve Cuningham sent information about the State Board conducting the initial search for a new Executive Director for SUAA.
 - October 25th is the SUAA State Fall Meeting in Normal. Directors should let McLean know if they can attend. Anyone else interested in going should email McLean. The cost is not known yet.
 - The Snow Bunny Luncheon will be on February 6, 2024 with a snow date of February 13, 2024
 - McLean has talked with Ryan Severs, Television Services, about an ad, public service announcement, or short video for SUAA. McLean requested board members send him a list of essential points that should be emphasized during the short segment. It was suggested to use the SUAA bookmark that delineates essential points. Melz-Jennings recommended targeting current employees and volunteered to be on the video as a current employee. Once we get a list of our key points to Severs, he will review and then send back to us. Getting the key points to Severs ensures us of a spot in their schedule. This would be on Channel 3 and online. A motion was made and passed to proceed working with

Severs on a segment highlighting SUAA – Jones/Brown. Blackledge suggested checking into Gordie Taylor's interviews as another way to get SUAA out there. Other suggestions were to push the Foundation's Professional Scholarship and to use the Campus Connection to get the word out about SUAA.

- A contract has been reached and WIU did not have to go on strike to get a similar raise as those entities that did strike. 435 WIU people will be affected by this raise.
- The WIU Flu Clinic is on October 3 in the Heritage Room from 8:00 until 3:30. Farr can be there from 8:00 until noon and McLean plans to be there in the afternoon.

Survivors' Assistance – Blackledge reported the following deaths within our membership since our last meeting: Velma Messmore (August 16) and Donna Kreps (August 27).

Blackledge had a question asked of her by a member about survivor benefits if remarrying. Checking with SURS, she reported the survivor benefits will continue for the individual after remarriage for that particular survivor. Blackledge will check on any specific criteria that needs to be met by others in order to continue getting the benefits. (i.e. years of marriage, age, etc.).

Membership – Farr

Our membership is at 493.

Social - Dallinger reported the Fall Luncheon will be held Oct. 10 at the Wesley United Methodist Church with a potato bar, green salad, rolls, pumpkin pie, and beverages. A form was sent with the Fall Newsletter. The cost will be \$15 per person. Reservations should be sent to Judy Dallinger by October 2. The date for the Snow Bunny Luncheon is February 6, 2024 with a snow date of February 13, 2024.

Legislative – Pano reported the Legislature is not in session so there will be no action until November. The Chicago State University president was given a \$50,000.00 bonus making that the 5th highest salary of the 12 universities in the state. WIU will have a tight fiscal situation in the coming year. The anticipated decline in enrollment is going to affect many areas. Madigan's aide, Tim Mapes was indicted. Kimberly Lightford, Tony McCombie, Norine Hammond, Dan Swanson are WIU graduates in the Legislature. Union activities and memberships are down in Illinois. IEA is down from 141,00 to 135,000. IFT is down from 101,000 to 85,000 this year. SIU, ISU, and EIU are reporting gains in enrollment. WIU has not yet published a fall enrollment figure.

Publications- No report.

Foundation- Brown will check on the availability of the \$1,000 scholarship for Professional development Award that was not awarded earlier and will email everyone.

Networking - No report.

Technology - No report.

Old business – None

New Business – None

Motion to adjourn at 10:55 a,m, Pano/Downin

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Brown for Jackie Richmond, Secretary