



WIU Chapter – SUAA

Newsletter

Serving the interests of the annuitants and survivors of Western Illinois University

March 2024

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Steve Rock Running for SURS Board of Trustees Annuitant Position

Emeritus Economics Professor Steve Rock, a WIU SUAA chapter director and current elected trustee on the state SURS Board of Trustees, is one of two candidates running for the **annuitant position on the state board**. The annuitant trustee seat is for a six-year term. To view the SURS Board of Trustees, go to [SURS.org](https://surs.org) and select *Business* then *Board of Trustees*. Rock has been endorsed by the WIU SUAA Chapter.

The announcement of the election on the [SURS website](https://surs.org) -- (<https://surs.org/2024/02/candidates-for-trustee-election-announced/>) -- includes the following voting information:

Voting will take place April 1 – May 1... Eligible SURS members will receive voting materials via email, if they have a valid email on file with SURS, or by U.S. mail if they do not. Voting materials will include biographical information on each candidate and will be sent from the impartial election services company, *YesElections*.

Following is **Steve Rock's candidate statement**:

I am running for the annuitant position on the SURS Board of Trustees in the election this April. Over the last nine years, I have faithfully represented active, inactive, and retiree members on the Board. Board members are fiduciaries, providing insight, making final decisions, and always acting in the best interests of our members. There have been some challenges in recent years, but I have always looked out for your interests as I share them too.

I have attended all Board and committee meetings including searches for Executive Directors and Chief Investment Officers. I chair the Legal and Legislative Committee and have a good relationship with SURS' staff. Other committees I serve on include Audit & Risk, Administration, and Investment. It has been a priority to participate in educational sessions and conferences to become more knowledgeable and effective in my role, especially in the area of investments.

I retired in 2018 as an economics professor at Western Illinois University. Other teaching appointments included Northern Illinois University and the University of Illinois Chicago. My Ph.D. is from Northwestern University.

I have been a member of the University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100 for the past 33 years, served as chapter treasurer, and on a negotiating team. Currently I am on the Executive Board of the Retirees Chapter. I am a delegate for the WIU SUAA chapter. Other service includes Local Coordinator of the AARP volunteer tax preparation program in Macomb. I served for 13 years as WIU's representative to the Faculty Advisory Council of the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

I would be grateful for your support for the elected annuitant position.