

SUAA AGENDA
March 5, 2026
10am

Participants: Melz-Jennings, Barker, Werling, Blackledge, Dallinger, Farr, McLean, Brewer, Pano, Brown

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and approved. Dallinger/Farr

Brewer gave the treasurer's report which was approved. McLean/Werling

Our CD at United Community Bank needs to be renewed by February 28.

Discussion was held about how rates might change. A motion to renew it for 12 months at 3.6% with an APY of 3.65 was approved. Farr/Barker

Brewer sent a copy of our bylaws and our December treasurers report to the main office, which is required each year.

Survivor Assistance - Blackledge reported the following members have passed away since our last meeting. Ronald J. Bauerly and Thomas 'Tom' K. Van Heuklon

Membership - Farr reported that our current membership is at 443. She has been in contact with Kevin Markham who indicated that current employees can check a box to show they are SUAA members if they pay their dues through payroll deduction. If not, perhaps Kevin can develop a plan so that we will be able to get a list of current employees who are members. He will create a group that will work on it which will include Carrie Van Vleet. Two new current employees have joined recently. Terry Sikes, in Kevin's department, is also working to help us. We have a 50 mile radius on who gets our mailed announcements. Barker will check with alumni programs to determine how many additional members would be included if we increase that to 75 miles or 100 miles.

Social - Dallinger – Our annual business meeting will be held on April 14, The newsletter has gone out through email. Melz-Jennings reported that Richard Toomey, Associate Vice President of Admissions and Enrollment Support will speak and Steve Rock will give a SURS update.

SURS Update – No report

Legislative – Governor Pritzger gave the governor's address on Feb. 18. His budget proposal was not a surprise, it will be tight. Revenues are projected to be \$56.2 billion with \$56.1 billion in projected spending. He reported that there are problems with Illinois receiving federal government monies we have expected, but the governor is counting on getting what Illinois is entitled to. There will be heavy pressure to control spending within the state. His budget is realistic. For higher education overall spending, he projected a 1 percent increase which is well below the inflation target. Last year he withheld 2% of what was appropriated, so we only ended up with a 1 percent increase. He proposed a flat line budget for some areas, There will be no additional funding for MAPP this year, which will stay at \$721 million. It will be a rather tough year for higher education. In other proposals related to education, the state will fully fund the pension system. The governor will be encouraging more buy-outs from the system. No movement is likely on the reform of the Tier 2 system because of the cost. There will likely be no movement on the equity funding plan. The U of I doesn't support it, but their president is willing to continue discussion. The equity funding bill has already been reintroduced this session, but is unlikely to move. The governor will support his plans to have community colleges offer some 4-year degrees, but the legislature has not advanced those plans. They would affect

local taxes and student tuition and is a complicated program. The governor's proposed budget is not popular with higher education groups. WIU is especially vulnerable.

Publications - Barker reported that one person received Snow Bunny invitation instead of the business meeting announcement, so it was resent. The university is trying to get the new program to work correctly.

Foundation - Brown will check to see if any WIU employees have applied for scholarship

Networking – No Report

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Technology – Werling indicated that the scholarship and professional development information has been added to our website.

Announcements Melz-Jennings reported that UPI will take part in teach out in Springfield on April 16,. If anyone interested, they are invited to participate. She will provide info as available. Pano reported that IFT/UIP will hold a webinar next week. People can participate if they are a member. He will send information about it.

Old Business – There was a discussion of suggestions for names for a potential President for 2026-2027.

Adjournment Pano/Brown

Respectfully submitted,

Judi Dallinger