

SUAA Board Meeting, 10 a.m., May 7, 2026 (via zoom)

Members present: Melz-Jennings, Dallinger, Barker, Ramsey, Werling, Brewer, Pano, Rock, McLean. Werling volunteered to take minutes.

The meeting was called to order by President Melz-Jennings.

Approval of April minutes is postponed.

Brewer reviewed the treasurer's report. Approved Dallinger/Barker.

Blackledge sent the report of those who have passed away since our last meeting: They were: Christopher J. David, Michael L. Duffie, and Beverly Ann Lawyer.

Pano reported the chapter membership of 437. An ad hoc committee will discuss recruitment opportunities. Melz-Jennings notes that WIU is hiring new faculty members.

Social – Guest Charlene Callison discussed food options at SUAA affairs. The consensus is that we should continue to order a main dish option (turkey) from Hy-Vee with salads, side dishes, and desserts supplied by members.

A motion to eliminate the February Snow-Bunny luncheon and have just two annual meetings (October and March or April) was approved. Dallinger/McLean. Dallinger will check on the calendar availability at Wesley Methodist Church..

SURS update – The stock market remains at near record levels. – Rock
Rock will attend the annual SUAA meeting in Springfield.

Pano reported on legislative issues. Governor Pritzker presented a balanced budget for 2026-27. Projected revenue estimates appear to be accurate, although federal cuts to SNAP food funding will place additional burdens on the state. The governor proposes a one percent increase for higher education, with two percent pending (well under inflation). He favors allowing community colleges to offer a four-year degree in certain fields, i.e., nursing, agriculture, law enforcement and industrial technology. The legislature is divided on this issue, as well as on proposals for a special billionaire's tax and for "equitable" funding of higher education. Another proposal would expand higher educational opportunities for incarcerated people. Three weeks remain in this session.

Networking – no report.

Technology – no report.

The meeting was adjourned.

SUAA Action (Pano) – no report.

