

SUAA Board Meeting, 10 a.m., July 2, 2026 (via zoom)

Members present: Melz-Jennings, Brown, Dallinger, Barker, Werling, Brewer, Pano, Rock, McLean.

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

Brewer reviewed the treasurer's reports. Approved Brown/Rock.

Blackledge sent the report of those who have passed away since our last meeting. They were Barb Woolam and Kathryn Lantz.

Membership – Farr: 434 members. It was discussed to send potential members to the WIU website to sign up (as opposed to the state SUAA website).

Social - Dallinger: Luncheon dates: Oct. 13, 2026 and March 30, 2027.

SURS update - Rock stated that the SURS portfolio through May is up 12.47 percent. The funding ratio is now above 50 percent. Requests for personal information are not usually complied with, except for what FOIA requires.

SUAA annual conference - Rock: Membership was the big point of discussion;

- Over the years, state membership has decreased from about 16,000 to 11,000. There have been more lapsed members than deceased members.
- Many new state legislators are not familiar with SUAA.
- SUAA supports changes to Tier 2 pensions and more health care options.
- Annual state dues are \$39, plus what chapters add to this.
- Two chapters may deactivate.

Legislative - Pano

- Governor Pritzker advocates certain four-year programs for community colleges.
- The funding level for MAP and AIM HIGH remain at fiscal year 2026 levels. An increased of \$15 million would be less than the current inflation rate.
- Public higher education funding in Illinois is becoming more expensive (about \$14,000 compared to a national average of about \$9,600). The most recent data (two years old) shows a net loss of 15,000 college-age students.

Publications: Barker - a newsletter is scheduled for September.

Foundation, Networking, Technology: no report.

Meeting adjourned: Brown/Brewer

SUAA Action: Pano - your support is needed in this election year.

