

State Universities Retirement System Member Advisory Committee – SURS MAC
Report to A/P Staff Council
Submitted by Jim Hunsaker
November 20, 2013

SURS MAC met on October 8, 2013 at the SURS office in Champaign, IL.

Legislative Update

Pension reform continues to be the main issue with the legislature. There currently has not been any action taken and none expected in the Fall Veto Session. There are currently 4 bills that are in various stages of consideration. Everyone is trying to make a best guess at what will be brought forward, but at this point it is purely speculation.

Investment Update

SURS experienced a 12.5% return on investments in FY13. Investment updates are posted on the SURS website monthly and can be found at <http://www.surs.org/investments>.

Member Services

There was a decrease in the number of retirement applications for the period of September 2013 – January 2014. There are currently 350 claims ready to be calculated which represents mainly June and July retirees.

SURS has started conducting annuitant's surveys measuring their level of satisfaction with the retirement process. SURS sent out 194 surveys (roughly 25% of non-reciprocal retirement claims and 100% of reciprocal claims) and received 73 responses (37% response rate). August satisfaction rate was 89.9% and September was 73.9%. Processing time for reciprocal retirement claims was the main reason members were dissatisfied.

SURS will be implementing e-forms in hopes of making their process more efficient. The first forms to be introduced will be: Refund Application, Retirement Plan Choice Election, W-4P, Address Change, and Report of Gross Earnings for members on disability.

At the time of the meeting, there was not a lot of information available on the Medicare Advantage Plans. These plans will replace an annuitant's state insurance if he/she is Medicare eligible. The Advantage plans are being administered by CMS and information is forthcoming. SURS estimates that the Medicare Advantage Plan will impact roughly 25,000 members.

In September SURS saw the greatest number of enrollees in the Self Managed Plan (SMP).

SURS conducted an employer workshop in an effort to gain input from employer representatives as to how SURS can assist them with reporting efficiencies.

As you know, Jake Baggott (Chair of SURSMAC) retired which necessitated the election of officers. John Shuler, Associate Professor, from University of Illinois Chicago was elected Chair. His term will run through October 2015. Mardell Wilson, Associate Vice President, from Illinois State will serve out her term as Vice Chair.

The next meeting was not set. But will be held on March 31, April 1, April 7, or April 8, 2014