

ADMINISTRATIVE/PROFESSIONAL STAFF COUNCIL
2014-2015 Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2014

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Chair Kathy Jones.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Shane Bennett, Todd Bryson, Angela Cummings-Hunter, Jill Gobert, Kathy Jones, Colleen Kuczynski, Don Patton, Charlotte Sarao, Kim Taylor, Rod Sievers, Matt Sronkoski

Members Absent: Wayne Glass (C. Kuczynski Proxy), Jeanne Killian

Visitors and Guests: Corné Prozesky (Graduate Council), Christopher Hinkle (Computing Advisory Committee), Renee Colombo (Human Resources), Bruce Appleby (State Universities Annuitants Association)

3. GUEST SPEAKER: Bruce Appleby, President of the State Universities Annuitants Association

Appleby spoke about the difference between SURS and SUAA. SURS is the State University Retirement System charged with administering pension benefits for public universities, community colleges, and other affiliated state agencies across the state. SUAA is the State Universities Annuitants Association which advocate to protect retiree benefits. Appleby stated that much of SUAA's efforts are protecting the benefits of people who want to retire rather than those who have already retired. He explained that two years ago, Constitutional Amendment 49 was introduced to change Article 13 Section 5 of the Constitution which states that once you are a retired employee of the state, your pensions or benefits cannot be reduced or diminished. SUAA led the statewide fight to stop that Constitutional Amendment. This year the state passed Public Act 08-08599. This Public Act would have required employees to work longer to be eligible for retirement, it would have made your retirement less than what it now says it will be, and it would have taken away free health insurance. SUAA, along with four other organizations, brought forth an injunction to get that stopped and won. Winning that injunction protected pensions. SUAA is moving forward with actions to have the money that was taken for health insurance be returned to annuitants with interest. The state has until October 13, 2014 to file a response to SUAA's motion for judgment and permanent injunction against the state so that they will never be allowed to use retiree pensions to pay for healthcare. Appleby closed by saying SUAA is what is protecting your pensions and benefits more than anything else. He encouraged AP Staff Council to join SUAA for \$2.70 per month through a payroll deduction and asked them to consider contributing to the legal fund. Appleby asked how SUAA can appeal to the current AP Staff of the University to get them to understand that membership to SUAA and contributing to the SUAA legal fund benefits them and is good protection. Council members discussed options with Appleby, including the Daily Egyptian, Carbondale Times, Southern Illinoisan, and Facebook.

K. Jones asked if the SUAA Foundation listed on the SUAA membership application is the legal fund that was referenced earlier. Appleby explained that the SUAA Foundation is separate. The legal fund information is not on the application and can be accessed at SUAA.org.

4. MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of the Council meeting on August 20, 2014 was made by Todd Bryson and seconded by Charlotte Sarao; minutes approved.

5. ADOPTION OF MEETING AGENDA

Don Patton made a motion to accept the agenda, and Matt Sronkoski seconded. Motion carried.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Chair

Kathy Jones reported that the last Constituency Head meeting was held on September 3rd. All of the Constituencies were represented. At that meeting, Chancellor Sarvela reported on the enrollment numbers and the modest increase of 25 students and an overall increase for the first time in 10 years. The freshman class is up

2.4% and International students are up 25%, the highest since 1985. He described the freshman class as representing 32 states, 22 countries, 29% African American, 11% Hispanic and 52% female. Sarvela mentioned the ongoing search in Admissions where Harold Bardo is currently serving as the Interim Director of Admissions and also in the Registrar's office where Tamara Workman is serving as Interim Registrar. Sarvela mentioned the creation of the Task Force on Student Affairs which is being chaired by Dean Mickey Latour, and will study the appropriate structure for the student affairs functions. Another topic mentioned at the meeting was the University centralization of the process for nominating and selecting Staff Excellence Awards. A question was asked whether the number of nominations for those awards has decreased since the process was centralized. Jones presented that question to the Council. Charlotte Sarao responded by saying that the AP Staff has had less of a voice in the procedure since it has been centralized, and that shortly after that the cash award was taken away. Sarao continued by saying perhaps people were not participating because the cash award was not taken away from the Faculty and it appeared as though the AP Staff and Civil Servants were not worthy of a prize. Rod Sievers added that he has served on that committee since it was centralized and has no knowledge of what it was like before being centralized. More discussion followed. Kathy Jones stated that she will follow up with people who had served on the committee in the past to determine how many people were nominated before the process was centralized. Jones reported on the State of the University Address and areas that Chancellor Sarvela is focusing on. Operational efficiency and effectiveness were discussed in relation to the budget and the potential for a mid-year reduction due to the state income tax expiration in January. An increase in the number of need-based financial aid waivers has had a \$3 million effect on the bottom line in regards to tuition revenue. Tuition waivers are being re-evaluated because of that impact. A strategic reduction of marketing expenses was also discussed at the University Address as well as consolidated IT contracting and purchasing. Jones noted that Chancellor Sarvela mentioned policy changes that had been made: the discretion of the term of continuing appointments being left to the Vice Chancellors, the hiring of retired Faculty and Staff, the reduction of the IT service charge by 20% effective this fiscal year, and student work hours remaining at 20 hours per week while school is in session and more than 20 hours per week will be permitted during vacation breaks and the summer. A link to information about the State of the University Address was made available in SIU Today.

T. Bryson noted the reference to "need-based" scholarships in the State of the University Address and whether the aid was "need-based" or "academically based" tuition waivers.

6.2 Board of Trustees

Kathy Jones reported that the BOT meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled in October.

6.3 Human Resources

Renee Colombo reported that the Annual Free Flu Shots will be available from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. on October 21st for last names A-M and October 24th for last names N-Z at the Student Recreation Center, Alumni Lounge. Make sure to bring SIU ID and insurance card.

6.4 Representatives to University Committees

Chancellor's Planning & Budget Advisory – Kathy Jones reported that the last meeting was on August 25th. The committee is now called the Executive Planning and Budget Committee. Jones stated that at the meeting Chancellor Sarvela stated that policy impacts morale and understands how the policies over the past couple years have affected people. The cost of mailings and tuition waivers were also discussed at that meeting. Jones also reported that Chancellor Sarvela discussed the priorities and role of the Chancellor's Planning and Budget Advisory Committee. The committee will be looking at the budget for the last couple years to see if it is a fair model particularly for the colleges. The performance funding model is also being evaluated by the committee. Jones stated that Chancellor Sarvela commented on enrollment and retention challenges and mentioned a directive from the Board of Trustees to examine student fees. Chancellor Sarvela also mentioned salary increases and how that will be impacted by limited resources and furlough days.

6.5 Standing Committees

6.5a Executive Committee

Todd Bryson reported that the Executive Committee met on Monday, September 8th. The committee reviewed the agenda for this week, reviewed the minutes and made corrections, discussed due dates for Committees to submit goals and objectives, and set a date for the September Happy Hour.

6.5b Committee on Committees

Charlotte Sarao reported that the committee has had two requests for AP representation; Student Affairs Task Force to which Jon Geiger has been selected, and the search for the College of Liberal Arts Dean. Three names are being requested for the search for the COLA Dean. Sarao requested suggestions from Council members. Matt Sronkoski volunteered.

6.5c Constituencies Relations

Shane Bennett reported that the committee is moving forward with plans for the Fall Luncheon on October 17th. Caterers, location and guest speakers were discussed. Bennett also spoke about an AP Staff Council Professional Development Series. This would be available for AP Staff and Faculty members and would use the resources available on campus. He commented that this would be a way to reach "across the aisle" to Faculty asking them to share their expertise and research.

6.5d Operating Paper

Kathy Jones reported that the committee met on September 3rd and 10th. This committee and the Executive committee discussed the impact of the work of the Student Affairs Task Force on the amendments being made to the Operating Paper and decided to move forward with current amendments. Jones reminded the Council that the AP constituents will be voting on each section of amendments.

6.6e Staff Benefits and Welfare

Matt Sronkoski reported that the committee met on Monday, September 15th. The committee reviewed and discussed the goals set by the Chair of the committee. The committee discussed the possibility of a statement coming from the AP Council regarding the UCOL courses as well as environmental concerns in some of the older building on campus.

7. Old Business

No old business was presented for discussion.

8. New Business

Kathy Jones presented the goals and objectives for each of the Standing Committees to the Council for approval. Todd Bryson moved to approve, Shane Bennett seconded. All in favor, Standing Committee Goals and Objectives were approved.

9. Announcements

October Happy Hour at Pinch Penny has been set for October 21st at 4:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Motion was made by Charlotte Sarao to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Rod Sievers. Meeting was adjourned.