

Appendix 2 to the Meeting Minutes of the 2007-2008 A/P Staff Council

Administrative Professional Staff Council
University Joint Benefits Committee Report
May 21, 2008

- The Board of Directors of the State Universities Annuitants Association held its annual spring meeting on the SIUC campus on March 11. The major topic at this meeting was the possibility of a constitutional convention and the decision has yet to be made as to whether this group will take a stance. This group is also working on domestic partner benefits.
- Consideration is being given by the University Joint Benefits Committee to produce an information sheet on the implications of a constitutional convention. The concern with a convention being held is that changes could be made to the pension system and health care benefits which could negatively affect both current and future employees.
- SURS counselors were on campus April 1 – 3 for individual retirement counseling sessions. Letters were sent out to employees who were within four years of retirement and general letters were sent out to all employees in March. The committee wanted to encourage SURS to send more counselors to campus or to schedule additional visits. The response was that SURS is probably sending as many counselors as they are able to. Human Resources advised that individuals can also go directly to them.
- A TIAA/CREF representative was on campus to do personal financial counseling sessions. Concern was expressed that they were soliciting business, but they were only targeting people who already had TIAA/CREF as a provider.
- The FY2009 Benefit Choice Period is being held in two parts, with the first being held during the month of May and the second to be announced once negotiations are finalized and information becomes available. More detailed information was sent out on the AP List Serve. Benefit Choice flyers were mailed to campus addresses in early May. Informational sessions were held on May 6. Questions can be addressed to Employee Benefits at 453-6668.
- It was discussed that beginning July 1, 2008, the General Accounting Standards Board will require states to report not just what they are spending but what they will be spending in future obligations. Concern exists that publishing these figures may cause pressure for a cut back on state paid health insurance.
- It was reported that SURS settled its \$5.8 million lawsuit against Key West in December and that the money went into the benefit fund for retirees. It was also discussed that excess money from the sale of state property should be used to pay down debt.
- Information was provided from a study by the Pew Centers on the States that appeared in the New York Times in December. The study said that there are several states that are not ranked very high with Illinois being one of the states who have contributed far less than required year after year.
- The committee has drafted a letter to serve as a cover sheet for the information sheets on pension and health care benefits. This information will be sent out through campus mail.

Submitted by Kim Taylor & Vanessa Sneed