

**Administrative Professional Staff Council
University Joint Benefits Committee Report
May 20, 2009**

- The University Joint Benefits Committee has met twice since last reporting to A/P Staff Council in December. The January 27 meeting was cancelled due to weather conditions.
- SURS Counselors were on campus in April to meet with employees planning retirement.
- A presentation on College Illinois! Was sponsored by Human Resources in March. A special enrollment period began May 1 and runs through July 31.
- The benefits choice period is occurring through the end of May with changes to be effective July 1.
- The SURS Board has been dissolved and there will be an election for new representatives. The individuals wishing to serve are responsible for getting petitions signed prior to elections. The IFT, SEIU, AFSCME, IEA and SUAA are jointly backing four candidates: Antonia Vasques, City Colleges of Chicago; Joe Iosbaker, U of I; Dorinda Miller, U of I; and Jeff Beaulieu, SIUC faculty member and current University Joint Benefits Committee Vice-Chair. The two backed annuitant are Mitch Vogel and John Engstrom. Announcement of new board members is expected in July.
- Several bills regarding retirement benefits and annuities have been introduced in the Senate.
 - The subcommittee reported on areas of concern, specifically the bill that would combine all of the state pension systems. (Currently there are 5 separate pension systems.) The proposed plan would combine all current systems into the Illinois Public Employees Retirement System, which is currently nonexistent. A particular area of concern is whether one system would actually provide for better control and decrease the likelihood of corruption. As the system currently exists, each is responsible for its' own investments and SURS has had more success with its investments.
 - Another area of concern is whether all pensions would become defined contributions rather than defined benefits (guaranteed benefits versus employees managing their own retirement monies).
- Steve Kraft, Chair of the committee is retiring from the University and will no longer be serving on the University Joint Benefits Committee. New officers will be elected.

Submitted by Kim Taylor and Vanessa Sneed