President Jerry Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

Members Present: Bill Blair, John Engstrom, Joe Grush, Steven Johnson, Sandy Jonker, Jim Lockard, Bill Lundberg, Jerry Meyer, Doug Moore, Margaret Phillips, Linda Schwarz, Elaine Spencer, Alan Voelker, Clair Williams

Approval of Agenda: Jerry Meyer submitted the agenda. After correcting the second spelling of Jim Lockard’s name, the motion passed to approve the revised agenda.

Approval of Minutes: Jerry distributed the minutes of the January 16 meeting for approval. After minor corrections pertaining to the section of SURS Board and SUAA Foundation Reports, and striking an “s” from the name of Jerry Meyer, the motion carried.

President’s Remarks: Jerry mentioned that the upcoming annual SUAA June meeting in Springfield may be fraught with some discussion and conflict. Alan Voelker gave a summary of happenings regarding the Executive Committee (since September 2007). The Executive Director and some members want a centralized operating structure rather than a member-driven system with a strong Board favored by other chapters so disagreement on structure is on-going. It will be important for voting members (at least six members, or proxies) from the NIU Annuitants Association to attend the meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: Doug Moore presented a written report of cash receipts and disbursements for the Board to review. It included receipts for SUAA dues, and small interest income. A transfer payment of $2136.80 was for NIU bus rental. Disbursements included the Board-approved contribution to SUAA Foundation, bank service charges, mileage, tolls, and registration for meetings, and newsletter expenses. There were also disbursements for table decorations at the NIU Wellness Fair, and supplies for the coffee hour on 1-11-2013. Doug indicated that he will be contacting Fifth Third Bank to get reimbursed for bank service charges since we link our Certificate of Deposits. The excess of receipts and transfers over disbursement was $380.91. The balance in checking account as of April 24, 2013, was $12040.10. Balance in Certificates of Deposits as of April 24, 2013, was $15675.13. Total resources as of April 24, 2013, were $27715.23.

Jerry Meyer reported that Lee Ann’s father passed away and he sent flowers from the Board. A motion was moved, seconded, and approved to reimburse Jerry for the flower expense. There was short discussion on the annual June NIU Annuitants Association dinner expenses. Thus far, they have been paid by the President’s Office but as a new President is coming aboard, this might not continue, so the Board may have to look at other avenues to support this in the future. There were no questions and Doug stated that anyone can call him if they think of any.

SURS Board and SUAA Foundation Reports: John Engstrom reported that as of the end of March SURS held assets of $14.8 billion but obviously liabilities are much higher. The funded ratio is running around 42% or 43%. So far this fiscal year (since July 1, 2012) the return has been 12.6%. During this fiscal year the state has made regular payments to SURS as they have the last couple of years. Compared to the
A Legislative event was held with SUAA; it included both a reception and dinner. Bob Pritchard attended and it went well. It gave the Board members a chance to ask questions of legislators.

The health care contribution will be deducted soon (1% of gross pension and will rise to 2% July 1, 2014, for those who are Medicare-eligible). Under 65 years of age the premium will start at 2% and go to 4% unless the State Supreme Court changes the ruling. There will not be a reduction in taxable income because of the insurance premiums. On April 30th there will be CMS representatives and vendors at NIU providing information regarding health insurance and other relevant topics.

The SUAA Foundation has been involved with internal changes because the long standing Treasurer left. John serves on the Foundation Board and also on the Executive Committee. He is also serves on a subcommittee working on financial matters, and a system whereby money that comes in is quickly acknowledged and the accounting system is managed in-house. There isn’t an auditor and that is something that should change.

There was continuing discussion regarding a survivor’s assistance plan. John recommends that we don’t make any decisions on this yet. In the future, there should be more information on the SERS website. In the past NIU Human Resources has assisted to a point regarding matters related to survivor’s assistance. However, they are short-handed and staff doesn’t have much time to offer assistance, so after discussion with Deb Haliczer she indicated that it would be stressful for HR to handle it on a regular basis. At some point the Board will need to decide what to do regarding survivor’s assistance, and perhaps Deb could attend a Board meeting and speak on this topic. It is highly recommended to attend the April 30th Fair at the NIU campus to gather more information on this topic and others, such as the proposed Medicare Advantage Plan which is supposed to take effect on January 1, 2014. Everyone is supposed to get more information regarding this issue soon. Hopefully, information will come up at the upcoming regional meeting in Palos Hills. There has been negative pressure on this so it is conceivable that CMS will say changing to Medicare Advantage is optional.

**Legislative:** Jim reported that there is nothing new as no bills have been passed, and the House is out of session this week. The worst aspect is that all of the proposals out there will not solve the problems and will hurt retirees. It will cost X amount this year and they will say it solved the problem, and then they will again do it next year and again and again. They spent too much and took in too little. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the SB1313 bill in September on whether it is constitutional or not to charge retirees for health insurance.

**SUAA Action:** Alan Voelker reported that there haven’t been any letters sent for SUAA Action requesting contributions. Alan resigned as co-chair of SUAA Action about a month ago. He will stay on as institutional chapter representative. The Treasurer also resigned basically because of contract difficulties, questions of spending PAC money, and issues regarding budgets, services, and spending.

**Membership:** Joe Koch was absent, so no report.

**Public Relations/Events:** Steven Johnson reported that we can at least always count on good social events. The last Coffee Hour was very well-attended. The Wellness Fair also had good participation and lots of people stopped by at the Annuitants table for information. He will continue to provide trip
information and dates via emails and the web site. He is always seeking input from the Board or members on suggested trips.

**Upcoming SUAA Regional Meeting on April 26th**: Linda Schwartz announced the regional meeting is this coming Friday. Steve Cunningham (and various politicians) will be speaking at Moraine Valley Community College in Palos Hills (from 9:30 to 3:30). There should be a Springfield update.

**June Newsletter**: Jerry Meyer requested that all articles and information be submitted to him as soon as possible for the May newsletter so it can go out soon.

**Old Business**: Jim Lockard reported as a member of the Nominating Committee. Daniel Wunsch has been nominated as a candidate to fill one open Director’s position (must be a former faculty member). Sara Clayton is also nominated to fill a second open Director’s position (must be from civil service). Clair Williams will present all of the candidates at the annual June meeting.

**New Business**: The annual meeting is coming up June 5th and Jerry and Jim will work on an agenda. Since this will be President Peter’s last annuitants meeting, the Board will present a certificate of recognition and appreciation.

Jerry distributed the IGPA six-point plan for addressing the state’s pension funding crisis as it relates to the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). The plan has been endorsed by the presidents of all Illinois public universities and community colleges. The UIC chapter has publicly supported the plan. There was short discussion regarding the points. Joe Grush had to leave early but would like to endorse the six-point pension proposal. The NIUAA Board (as it hasn’t been presented to the overall membership) position is to not endorse it, but find it to be preferable to other current proposals or legislation seen thus far.

Jerry also distributed the State Universities Annuitants Association Strategic Plan. There was a brief discussion regarding the plan (dated February 2007). It was unclear whether point 3.2 would increase annual dues again by $6.00 (if so this would not be endorsed by the Board). Point 3.4 (SUAA will develop specific guidelines for its relationship with SUAA Action and the SUAA Foundation and will assist them in meeting their financial goals) needs to be defined further and more elaboration provided. It was suggested that a more specific time frame needs to be developed, so Jerry will convey this.

The next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10th, at 10 a.m. in room 178 of the Human Resources Building, west campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Jonker, Secretary