President Jerry Meyer called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: John Engstrom, Joe Grush, Jim Lockard, William Lundberg, Doug Moore, Margaret Phillips, Linda Schwarz, Sherilyn Spear, Jerry Meyer, Clair Williams

University Liaison: Lee Ann Henry

Approval of Agenda: Jerry Meyer submitted the agenda with one addition regarding a Dues Increase for approval. A motion was made by Joe Grush to approve the agenda and was seconded by Jim Lockard. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 25, 2012 meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made by Jim Lockard to approve the minutes and was seconded by Sherilyn Spear. Motion carried.

President’s Remarks: Jerry introduced Clair Williams and Sandra Jonker, our two new board members. Clair comes from Legal Services, Risk Management. Sandra Jonker worked for International Programs, and has agreed to be our new secretary. She was unable to attend this meeting.

Jerry reported that he had attended the June SUAA meeting. Discussion at the meeting included the ramifications of a recently passed legislative bill regarding charging for healthcare. A CMS representative was in attendance and gave a report on the process of determining the range of charges for annuitants. CMS is negotiating with ASCME on what those charges will be, and they would go into effect in January 2013. There is a possibility that the bill will be contested and end up in court. Another pending legislative bill would shift the current cost of state pension contributions for employees to local governing units, including community colleges, school districts, and universities.

Treasurer’s Report: Doug Moore distributed the Schedule of Cash Receipts and Reimbursements, April 26, 2012 – July 9, 2012. Receipts came from SUAA dues and a small amount of interest income. Disbursements were for SUAA Annual Meeting expenses, coffee hours, and newsletter design. Motion to accept the treasurer’s report was made by Joe Grush and seconded by Jim Lockard. Motion carried.

Membership: No membership report.

SURS Board and SUAA Foundation Reports: John Engstrom explained what the purpose of the SUAA Foundation is. 1) Support & Education 2) Provide emergency assistant to members 3) Support for survivor assistance 4) Assistance to central office. John explained that he serves on the Executive Committee. The next meeting is scheduled for September.

Legislative: Jim Lockard reported that there really isn’t anything new at this time. There is a currently a class action suit by a judge to declare unconstitutional the recently passed and signed bill requiring retirees to pay for health insurance, when they were promised upon retirement, that there would be no charges.
Benefits – Sheri had no report at this time, as the committee had not met recently.

SUAA Action – No report.

Public Relations/Events – No report.

New Business – Jerry reminded everyone that articles for the newsletter will be due in mid-October. He reported that NIU has a total of 1,879 members, 420 of them being current employees. NIU is second highest in membership, behind U of I-UC.

Jerry received a request by Carol Zar to use our email list to announce Lifelong Learning Institute programs. During discussion it was pointed out that NIUAA had a policy of not sharing our list with outside groups. It was suggested instead that a short paragraph could be included in our newsletters. A motion was made by Jim Lockard to allow LLI to put a short article in the newsletter and to limit our email to those only that are specific to NIUAA. The motion was seconded by Clair Williams. Motion passed.

In conversations with AFSCME representative Doug Moore on the NIUAA board, it was suggested that it might be useful to our membership and the larger academic community to arrange for Ralph Martire, executive director of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, to make a presentation on the funding crisis in Illinois, in particular as it relates to the backlog of state payments to the five pension systems. Discussion included the possibility of the local AFSCME chapter and the NIUAA jointly sponsoring such an appearance and sharing costs. Some members of the board felt that in light of a need for the appearance of non-partisanship, it would be better to have NIUAA be the sole sponsor of the event. Jerry said he would pursue setting up an appearance sometime in September. Doug offered to help with publicity. Jerry will work with Doug in scheduling Martire’s appearance, probably some place on campus.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for October 10. The location of the meeting may have to be someplace other than the Human Resources Building, since the parking lot is schedule for repaving. Jerry will let the board know the specific meeting place later.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lee Ann Henry
Annuits’ Association Liaison