The meeting was called to order at 2:07 by Terry Borg, Committee Chair, followed by a quick member introduction.

Members present: Terry Borg, Celeste Latham, Mary Wyzard, Murali Krishnamurthi, John Hulseberg, Liz Guess, Samantha McCarron, George Slotsve, and Wendell Johnson.
Guests present: Deborah Haliczer and Jim Lockard – both substitutes for Sherilynn Spear

I. Agenda Additions/Approval: George Slotsve moved for, and Celeste Latham seconded, approval of the agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

II. Minutes Approval from November 5, 2015 Meeting: George Slotsve moved for, and John Hulseberg seconded, approval of the minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

III. Old Business:
   a. Benefits Update (Latham and Guess)
      i. Pension
         1. Changes to the money purchase formula became effective 1/4/16. HR saw fewer departures than expected before 1/4/16.
         2. SURS is offering individual retirement counseling appointments on 4/12 and 4/13. The SURS Call Center will open on 2/12 to begin accepting appointments.
         3. In the first week of March, there will be seminars/individual counseling sessions with SURS & Fidelity for employees enrolled in the self-managed pension plan.
      ii. Prudential Long-term Disability
         1. 87 employees have enrolled the plan
      iii. CMS Dependent Audit
         1. At NIU, 51 dependents were dropped, 17 of which were involuntary, due to the dependent audit. There is no word yet on what the cost-savings to the state are based on the audit.
      iv. Roth 457 supplemental retirement plan with T. Rowe Price
         1. New plan effective 1/1, 6 employees have enrolled so far.
      v. Affordable Care Act
         1. Insurance plans working on 1095-C’s, to be delivered by 3/31/16. This form is not required to file taxes.
      vi. Other
         1. Murali Krishnamurthi offered a suggestion to HR representatives regarding issuance of emeritus titles more than once per year. This will be checked with Provost Lisa Freeman and Mike Mann.
   b. Annuitants Association Report (Haliczer and Lockard)
      i. Updates from 1/20/16 NIUAA meeting
         1. SURS ended 2015 with a positive change to investments. Investments have returned 2.9%, 11.0%, 11.2%, and 7.1% for the past 1, 3, 5, and 10 year periods, respectively.
         a. Terry Borg asked about the remaining life left in the fund. Lockard says that is tough to project, and was not able to speculate.
2. The biggest issue affecting NIUAA is membership. Membership levels have been stagnant for many years. Both Haliczer and Lockard urged UBC members to help spread awareness about membership and its importance.

3. Currently, increases in SUAA dues are not automatically passed on to current employees who use payroll deduction. In order to increase, each employee must sign a new payroll deduction form. Effective March 2016, the Payroll Office will automatically deduct full dues (now $36 annually) for every individual who uses payroll deduction. At that same time, President Grush will send a letter instructing those individuals whose dues were increased how to cancel their membership if they wish to do so but will encourage them to remain a member.

4. The Annuitants Association will have a table at the Wellness Fair on 4/6/16.

5. NIUAA has a new Education Committee to keep members informed on current issues affecting them. This committee will look at helping members understand benefits and hopefully provide talking points to counter pension nay-sayers.

6. Lengthy conversation regarding low-interest loans for help with up-front medical costs, and if available to out-of-state retirees.

c. Employee Morale and Workload
   i. SPS Council
   1. Morale and workload is the focus of Workplace Issues Committee
   ii. Operating Staff Council
   1. The Employee Morale Ad Hoc committee was eliminated due to perceived lack of an issue. A motion on the floor was put forth to make it a standing committee.

IV. New Business:
   a. From John Hulseberg – Are all university committees subject to the Open Meetings Act? Legal council is looking into it.
   b. From Murali Krishnamurthi – The Dual Career Policy has been drafted and is in the review process with the Provost’s office. Dual Career Issues will be added back to future agendas for updates.

V. Next meeting: March 3, 2016, 2-4 PM, Altgeld 212

Adjournment: Wendell Johnson moved to adjourn, with the second from Mary Wyzard. The motion to adjourn was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.