NIU Annuitants Association

June 21, 2023

Call to order and Welcome.

Andrew Small called the meeting to order.

Motion to approve the June 21, 2023, agenda was made by Michael Peddle seconded by Clair Williams and carried.

Motion to approve the June 15, 2022, minutes as amended was made by Paul Stoddard, seconded by Deborah Haliczer, and carried.

Matt Streb, Chief of Staff to President Freeman

* President Freeman sent her regards.
* President Freeman’s contract has been extended for another two years. July 1 was the sixth year since she became Acting President. The average presidency is four years.
* Changes in leadership:

Interim Acting EVP and Provost, Laurie Elish-Piper. Current EVP and Provost, Beth Ingram, is going back to faculty.

VP for Research Jerry Blazey retired and replaced by three-time Huskie, Yvonne Harris.

Vernese Edghill-Walden resigned. Carol Summer, from Texas Tech, was hired.

John Acardo is the new Chief HR Officer.

Dean’s Leadership: College of Education, Bill Pitney, Interim Dean and College of Business Denise Schoenbachler, Interim Dean. There will be searches this fall. CHHS and CEET new deans.

* A strong state budget passed which is a good budget for NIU. Seven percent increase, $98.7 million in FY 2024. In 2002 NIU received the most funding. We also had more students than we do today.
* Students are using services more than they did in 2002.
* Metra train ridership is up. Buses go out each day from DeKalb to Elburn.
* Exploring of bringing Metra to DeKalb. 8-10 years before the train would be in DeKalb. NIU is the only university without rail services. The capital cost would be $250-350 million and $10-12 million for yearly operating cost.
* The relationship with the City of DeKalb has never been stronger. NIU and the City of DeKalb meet on a regular basis.
* NIU has the oldest homecoming in the State of Illinois and in the nation. This year NIU will play the Ohio Bobcats.
* Our incoming freshman class last year was the largest in a decade. Our charge has been getting students here and keeping them here. Our re-enrollment looks strong.
* There is a highly politicized question of the value of a college degree. Males less likely to go to college. Males from underserved communities. 2025-26 started a decline in high school graduates in the State of Illinois. Illinois is projected ¼ fewer high school graduates. Cannot go back to 25,000 students. The make-up our students will change. Adult learners as more come back. NIU will never lose retention focus.
* Neptune will be opened this year.
* ISU is not our biggest competitor. U of I Chicago is the biggest competitor.
* Closing Normal Road to be used for green space.
* DeKalb City will have a roundabout by the end of the summer.

Matt thanked everyone for their commitment to NIU.

Andy Small, on behalf of the annuitant’s group, expressed his gratitude to Matt and President Freeman for their leadership as their leadership provides consistency to guide this ship.

1. Current and Past President’s Report • SUAA meeting in Springfield was held.
   * The SUAA website has been updated.
   * Budget and economic managers have been hired.
   * Most important news, the announcement of the retirement of Linda Brookhart. Linda has served for 17 years. There will be a national search for her replacement.
   * There was an interesting presentation about the remodeling of the State Capital.
   * There were issues but we were a resolute team, and we were able to do it together to help our members.

Deborah Haliczer honored SUAA’s past presidents.

Andy Small

* + Even though Andy started his presidency during Covid, there were many accomplishments.
  + Matt Streb joined us.
  + Set up filing reports and they were archived.
  + Clair continued our scholarship program. SUAA Community Foundation has $100,000. NIU has $100,000 big deal strong preference in State organization.

1. SUAA officers and directors were introduced.

Treasurer’s Report: Report made by Linda Holdermann

The treasurer’s report was presented.

IX. Committee Reports

Audit and Finance Report made by Clair Williams

Clair submitted the report on behalf of Mike Fortner

Benefits

No report

Communications Report made by Diane Johns

The newsletter will be out in the fall.

Education and Professional Development

Anyone interested in serving on this committee, let Toni know after the meeting.

Legislative

No report

Parking Report made by Ferald Bryan

Parking permits go on sale on July 5.

Political Awareness Report made by Michael Peddle

Email SUAA information guide, which is a statewide guide to those running for office. SUAA has a separate arm that is a political action committee.

Public Relations/Events:

No report

Social Report made by Cynthia Nelson

A chair for the social committee is needed.

Scholarship Report made by Clair Williams

A history of the scholarship fund since its inception in 2018 was presented.

SUAA Foundation Report made by Paul Stoddard

SUAA awards scholarships. Had a meeting last week and awarded faculty and staff scholarships of $1,000.00. This year there is a record number of applications for professional development.

Membership

No report

SUAA Board Report made by Steve Cunningham

SUAA membership is about 12,500.  Overall SURS participation is closer to 225-240K. SUAA effectively represents all 225K (or so) SURS participants and thus there is considerable upside for membership.

The membership fee is $42.00 a year.

The Board will conduct a search for the Executive Director’s replacement. Linda will stay on to assist the new director.

Old Business

Awards recognition.

Deborah Haliczer was presented with certificate for her outstanding service to SUAA.

New Business

None

Attendance:

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Sandy Little, seconded by Clair Williams, carried, and adjourned at 2:55 p.m.