NIU Annuitants Association Board Meeting

Altgeld Hall 225

December 6, 2023

11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Present

Terry Borg, Steve Cunningham, Deborah Haliczer, Michael Peddle, David Sinason, Andy Small, Toni Tollerud, Scott Wickman, Pat Wielert

Via Zoom: Holly Nicholson, Paul Stoddard

Call to Order

Toni Tollerud called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the December 6, 2023, minutes as amended was made by Andy Small and seconded by Deborah Haliczer and carried.

Approval of Agenda

There were no corrections or additions to the agenda.

Treasurer’s Report – no report

Cynthia Nelson has been in the hospital for a month and now is in a rehab center. She wishes to continue as Treasurer.

Cynthia will update the treasurer’s report and send it out. There was a balance of $4,675.00 in August’s Treasurer’s report. The balance has not changed except for expenses associated with Andy attending the SUAA meeting.

Two CDs will roll over in July.

Andy

SUAA director, Bryan Soady, was hired.

There was a great membership discussion at the annual meeting. Have some ideas from other chapters.

Our membership is 1,450 and is as low as it has ever been. We have had challenges with how we can get members.

V. Vice President’s Report (Paul)

No report

VI. President’s Remarks (Toni)

Paul leads the election committee for our member election in June. Be mindful that at least one current member needs to be on the board.

Pat Vary had triple bypass surgery. Toni sent her a plant and paid for it personally as sending plants/flowers is not a budgeted item. Toni will also send something to Cynthia.

Toni is hosting a board potluck on December 21 at 6:00 p.m. Board members and spouses/friends are invited. Bring a salad, vegetables, or dessert. Send out email to RSVP.

VII. NIU President’s Office Liaison Remarks (Matt Streb)

No report

VIII. SUAA Presidents’ Remarks (Steve)

The search committee announced Brian Soady as the new executive director. Linda will be available to consult through transition.

There were sixty-six candidates and three were brought in for interviews.

10/23 ISU fall meeting discussion on membership.

University and community college presidents and leaders still do not have an idea about membership.

Talked about the budget crossroads, theme for membership and budget.

Steve’s two-year term ends in July. It is not renewable.

IX. Committee Reports

1. Audit (Michael F.)

No report

1. Benefits (Terry)

Terry’s Timely Topics on University Benefit Issues

The Benefits committee has met once since the last meeting. The next meeting will be held on March 7.

Announcements for NIU employees:

Employees can now have their pay direct deposited to more than one bank account.

403b contribution limits are increasing by $500 in 2024.

The language of the Paid Leave for All Act (Senate Bill 208) is being clarified and NIU administration is working on an implementation plan.

The Provost and CFO announced budget implications at the Faculty Senate on November 1, 2023. The University plans to manage its $32 million dollar deficit through a $16 million dollar reduction in the current FY24, and the remaining deficit in FY25. The FY24 budget mitigation plan includes requesting more money from the State, identifying new sources of revenue, growing revenues through investment, increasing student retention, stop doing non-essential/non-priority things, and reallocate resources to decrease costs.

Terry will check on the challenges of Aetna’s reimbursement for the hearing aid benefit.

c. Communication and Webpage (Diane, Holly, and Chris)

 Have not met.

Mike Peddle said that newsletters are not up on web page. Holly will check to see what newsletters she has and will let Toni know which newsletters she has. Once all are on webpage, Holly will keep web page current.

Spring Newsletter

Information for the newsletter is due after the March meeting and will be distributed in April.

1. Education and Professional Development

The committee asked for ideas about what would be interesting for a coffee meeting or a meeting at Oak Crest. Will have a report for next meeting.

Mike suggested a Life-long Learning Institute presentation.

1. Legislative (Jim)

 No report

1. Membership (Andy)

President of Council SIUE proposed twelve ideas to generate more members.

 Toni, Andy, and Pat will call people whose memberships have lapsed.

SUAA or SURS should be something on the website regarding membership. Have formation in the HR packet for new hires and retirees. Susan Sweigle coordinates new employee events.

 Toni, Deb, and Andy will meet to build on what state level highlights are.

g. Parking (Ferald)

No report

h. Political Awareness (Mike)

Election year. Most of our State representatives are up for election.

1. Public Relations/Events No report (Steven)
2. Social (Pat)

No report

1. Scholarship (Dave Sinason)

An excel spreadsheet was distributed showing the balances over time for the Endowed Fund, Expendable Fund, and in total and gifts received through October 31, 2023.

An article was submitted for publication in the fall newsletter, and will send s year-end solicitation on November 27 which, for the first time, will include a payroll deduction authorization form. An analysis is being done on the Foundation’s crowdfund tool to determine if it is feasible for us to do. We will participate in the Foundation’s annual web-based fund raiser planned for March.

For 2023-24, the scholarship was. awarded to Evan Pinsel, a student in the College of Law. Since 2019, nine scholarships have been awarded totaling $14,250.

Except for the College of Law, two scholarships per year will be awarded for the next several years. Increases in either the number of scholarships offered, or the amounts awarded, will be dependent on endowment earnings and future donations.

l. SUAA Foundation (Paul)

 No report

X. Old Business

 A.

* Dues will be increased because of diminished membership.
* Get on agenda of various groups to inform them of benefits to join NIUAA.
* Annuitant’s weekly article in NIU Today and feature annuitants.
* Public service announcement or by ad space inviting people to an annuitants get together.
* Announcements on WNIJ

B. Bylaws committee

* This was not meant to be an action item for the Board. The committee has been looking at ways of organizing and changing the structure of the board and cleaning up language. Will be ready to discuss at the March meeting.
* Only board members have the right to vote in a board meeting for this. Committee chairs do not vote. Board members, directors and officers can vote.
* By laws is still a work in progress.

XI. New Business

* The annual meeting will be held on Wednesday June 26.
* A suggestion was made to do a geographic study and have a meeting in a central location where most annuitants live. The Naperville campus was suggested.
* Andy moved and Stoddard seconded to replicate last year’s meeting as much as possible for this year’s annual meeting in June and look at having future meetings in Naperville. Motion carried all ayes.
* Toni will contact Teresa at Barsema and use last year’s meeting as a template.
* Ask Brian and President Freeman to attend. Matt Streb will be contacted to ask him to put the meeting on Dr. Freeman’s schedule.

Peddle and Small seconded to adjourn at 12:48. Motion passed.