

NIUAA Board Meeting
Hybrid (in-person and via Zoom)
December 8, 2021 11:00 am to 12:30 pm

Present (in person): Ferald Bryan, Deborah Haliczner, Diane Johns, Cynthia Nelson, Holly Nicholson, Andy Small, & Toni Tollerud

Present (via Zoom): Terry Borg, Steven Cunningham, Chris Doe, Linda Holderman, Michael Peddle, & Paul Stoddard

Call to Order: Andy Small called the meeting to order at 11:06 am

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Holly Nicholson, seconded by Toni Tollerud, and carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion to approve the March minutes was made by Linda Holderman, seconded by Toni Tollerud, and carried.

President's Remarks:

- Andy Small remarked that he had met with President Freeman last week and did not get the impression that the administration would provide any support for NIUAA. Everything is on hold because of the pandemic. Cynthia Nelson asked if the lack of support is due to the pandemic or for another reason. Andy responded that in his opinion, it is because of the pandemic. Enrollment is down, and NIU is not of dire importance to state and federal legislators, so NIU doesn't have the capacity to reach out to any organizations right now.
- Andy reported that a number of NIUAA members attended the SUAA meeting in November (some in person and some remotely) and went to a session on redistricting. There's nothing on the table right now regarding pensions; they are not a problem despite redistricting changes. SUAA's budget was approved for the next fiscal year; it's the same as in past years (see the SUAA website for information). SUAA's membership report revealed they are struggling for members and are considering proposals for increasing membership. NIUAA is second only to UIUC in size, which is saying a lot because they are so much bigger than NIU. Also, only one Illinois university president is a member of their annuitants' association: Lisa Freeman. Andy thanked her for setting an example.

Treasurer's Report:

- Linda Holderman went over the report she had sent out, noting that we have four CDs. One will renew in January 2022. She also pointed out a typo regarding the fourth CD (it renews in 2023). Motion to approve the report was made by Paul Stoddard, seconded by Terry Borg, and carried.

Committee Reports:

- *Audit and Finance Committee:*
 - Mike Fortner said the committee met last month. They made recommendations to the Treasurer on how to refinance our CDs, and also put together their forecast for 2022. The major difference is a forecast for more expenditures for in-person activities because of the high rate of vaccinations, in contrast to no such in-person activities during the past two years.

- *Benefits:*
 - Toni Tollerud congratulated Terry Borg on his upcoming retirement as of December 31.
 - Terry said the November meeting of the University Benefits Council didn't take place, and the December meeting is scheduled for tomorrow (December 9). At the October meeting, they met with the new head of Human Resources, who is very concerned about hiring; not a lot of people are looking for jobs, which means that current staff members are being asked to take on more responsibilities. Terry said he will submit his report after tomorrow's meeting.

- *By-Laws:* There was no report.

- *Communication:*
 - Diane Johns reported that she had assisted Bob Self in preparing the November newsletter and feels ready to take over the May issue. Andy expressed thanks to Bob for all his work.

- *Education and Professional Development:*
 - Andy commented that because Mike Fortner had recently replaced Toni Tollerud on this committee, he wouldn't ask for a report yet. He said he would leave it up to Mike to educate the board regarding what he feels is important and what would promote our group. Andy recommended Toni as a good resource person, and Toni recommended Debbie. Debbie said she has ideas and will send some proposals to Mike.

- *Legislative:*
 - Andy noted that we had all seen Jim Lockard's most recent report.

- *Parking Committee:*
 - Ferald Bryan agreed to serve as the representative on this committee. Debbie pointed out that for a long time Ferald has been our parliamentarian. Andy assured him that Parking is not a big committee at this point.
 - Toni pointed out that we just want to make sure the university doesn't raise the parking rate for retirees. Retiree parking passes used to be free but now cost \$10.00. Ferald said he would look into the situation.

- *Political Involvement (SUAA Action):* There was no report.

- *Public Relations:* There was no report.

- *Social Committee:*
 - Cynthia Nelson reported on some difficulties the committee ran into when seeking venues for this fall's social gathering and communicating about the meeting they scheduled (but then canceled) at Fatty's. Some additional locations for spring were discussed, including Faranda's/Lincoln Inn.
 - Debbie observed that we have a long history of trying to do "freebies": some examples were morning coffee at the Alumni Center and bringing a speaker to Oak Crest. A few years ago, the credit union hosted a meeting at the hotel on Annie Glidden Road. The only time NIUAA ever provided refreshments was at the annual meeting. She thought that the issue with the Fatty's gathering was that it was just a bad time for people to go out due to the pandemic.

- A discussion ensued about the possibility of bringing in speakers, especially on topics of interest in an election year; suggestions included bringing back Mike Fortner and Mike Peddle to talk about the legislative process, inviting someone to talk about the redistricting and who it's affecting, or inviting Linda Brookhart to speak about what's going on with SUAA. Other discussion included advertising these speakers' events to our younger members who aren't retired yet, especially the Tier 2 contingent, and videotaping the presentations.
 - Debbie proposed that Mike convene a group of people who are interested in planning a series of events; she volunteered to assist with this.
- *Scholarship Committee:*
 - Toni Tollerud said the committee's report didn't get sent out, and briefly described four areas that it covered: (1) endowment agreement; (2) Excel spreadsheet showing the history of the scholarship fund; (3) two scholarships will be awarded in 2022-2023 (the number of scholarships in the future will be dependent on how much is received in gifts and donations); (4) a year-end appeal went out on November 29.

At this point, Andy noted that he had not asked for approval of the September meeting minutes following approval of the agenda. Motion to accept the minutes was made by Deborah Haliczner, seconded by Ferald Bryan, and carried.

- *SUAA Foundation:*
 - Paul Stoddard said he hadn't heard anything from the SUAA Foundation as of yet. He would like to talk with Andy in the near future; Andy noted that the Foundation is interested in our scholarships, as several NIU scholarship recipients have worked for SUAA.
- *Membership Committee:*
 - Deborah Haliczner said that Chris sent out a report in September.
 - Debbie recommended that we all make personal contact with potential retirees and tell them what the process is. People appreciate a personal note or email. We have to be creative; the committee should get together and talk about strategies.
 - A lengthy discussion ensued about the complications surrounding retirees' NIU email addresses and the other benefits that NIUAA provides members, including communication via the newsletter and advocacy (keeping tabs on our pensions). Andy concluded that the bottom line is that anything that anybody can do to increase membership is good.
- *SUAA Board:*
 - Steve Cunningham reported on the November 17th SUAA meeting at ISU. Because of technical difficulties with Zoom, the board decided to delay action on the bylaws changes until the summer 2022 meeting. The legislative platform has been approved. Tier 2 provisions have been enhanced somewhat but will need to be addressed at some point in the future.
 - Matt Maloney's presentation is available on the SUAA website.
 - Linda Brookhart is very active in Springfield and is attending several fundraisers; this is an important part of SUAA's work.
 - On 2-2-22, the governor will give his State of the State address. This sparked a discussion about the importance of outreach, communication, and direct engagement with all IL colleges/universities. Mike F. and Steve both commented about SUAA's high visibility in Springfield and the fact that SUAA lobbyists have developed good relationships on both sides of the aisle and can communicate directly with almost every legislator.

Old Business:

- Awards Recognition
 - Deborah Haliczzer noted that the awards recipients (Chris Doe, Linda Holderman, Sara Lamberty, Al Mueller, and Linda Schwarz) had been given their certificates. Because recipients must be nominated by the NIUAA board, we should be thinking about people (not just board members, but any members) who have contributed to the organization and give recommendations to Andy by the March meeting. A list will be sent to board members, and the recipients will be announced at the annual meeting in June.
- Website
 - Andy thanked those who contributed to updating the NIUAA website: Chris, Holly, and Clair.

New Business:

- Meeting Location
 - Possible meeting locations were discussed besides the DeKalb library (where we were expecting them to provide a microphone and camera), including the Trustees' Room in Altgeld Hall, the NIU Learning Center, and a room in Swen Parson.
- Annual Meeting Date Change
 - In September, we had discussed changing the date of the annual meeting from June 1 to June 15. Motion to change the date was made by Deborah Haliczzer, seconded by Holly Nicholson, and carried.

Upcoming Meetings:

NIUAA Board Meeting, March 9, 2022 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
NIUAA Annual Meeting, June 15, 2022 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
SUAA Annual Summer Meeting: June 16th & 17th, 2022

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made by Toni Tollerud, seconded by Paul Stoddard, and approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Johns, Secretary