**NIUAA Board Meeting March 11, 2025**

Attendees: Andy Small, Paul Crawford, Pat Vary, Ferald Bryan, Pat Wielert, David Sinason, Paul Stoddard (Treasurer's report only) and Matt Streb, Ex-Officio member.

Directors not in attendance: Toni Tollerud, Terry Borg, Brian Becker, Jay Monteiro

Clair Williams was also present.

After a roll call of members, a quorum was established.

In the absence President Toni Tollerud and Vice President Terry Borg, Andy Small was asked to conduct the meeting, Dave Sinason moved and Pat Vary seconded the motion to approve. Motion passed, all ayes.

**I. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

Pat Vary moved and Dave Sinason seconded to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

Ferald Bryan moved, and Dave Sinason seconded to approve December 10, 2024, minutes as amended. Motion carried.

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

* Matt Streb reported on the Governor’s budget which allocated a 3% increase to higher education and discussed the implications of a community college bill regarding four-year degrees. Nationally, there were cuts to research programs.
* Retention is strong. It is more expensive to recruit than to retain. Monitoring the fall decline in international student enrollment.
* NIU may need to rethink how services are delivered.
* October 4 will be homecoming against Miami of Ohio.
* Football moving to Mountain West conference for better revenue and attendance; travel costs will rise because of chartering.
* There will be a plan for gymnastics and wrestling. The remaining sports will be in the Horizon League.
* NIU will be in the MAC for one more year.
* It is Matt Streb’s birthday today and tomorrow is Liz Wright’s birthday.

**V. President’s Report (Toni Tollerud)**

No report.

**VI. Treasurer’s Report (Paul Stoddard)**

* Paul reported total assets of $36,735.03 as of February 28, 2025, including $11,189.11 in checking and $25,545.92 in CDs.
* The cash position improved by $6,000.00 though the investment portfolio decreased.

**VII. SUAA Update and Legislative Report (Steve Cunningham)**

**VIII. Past President’s Remarks on NIUAA and Report from Co-chair of SUAA Membership (Andy Small)**

* Andy highlighted the need for local chapters to increase financial contributions to SUAA amidst declining membership.
* Andy suggested tabling decisions on contributions and dues until further clarity is achieved at the state-level.
* Donations and dues discussions will be agenda items for the July membership meeting.

**IX. Vice President’s Report (Terry Borg)**

* No report

**X. Old Business**

A. Annual Membership Meeting

* + The annual membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2025, from 11:30-2:00 at Barsema Alumni & Visitors Center. Lunch will be provided; donations accepted to cover expenses.

B. Reflections on Board Coffee and Social Hour

* + Pat Vary was thanked for organizing the social hour and Dave Sinason was thanked for his presentation.
  + The SUAA State meeting will be held on June 13 and 14, 2025. The chapter pays registration fee and accommodation for five delegates. Contact Andy if interested.

**XI.Update of Bylaws**

* Pat Vary moved and Dave Sinason seconded to approve changes to the by-laws and submit them to members at the annual meeting for approval. Motion passed.

**XII. New Business**

1. Add a Delegate to the SUAA Foundation

* An additional delegate is needed for the SUAA Foundation Committee.
* Paul is a representative of the SUAA Foundation.
* An annual meeting of the foundation is being held immediately before our annual meeting.

1. Update of Website and Communications Task Force Meeting

* A meeting was held in December.
* A question was asked regarding how many hits our web page gets. A suggestion was made that we need to be on Facebook or a social platform if we are going to be relevant.

**XIII. Liaison and Committee Reports**

1. Audit and Finance (Dave Sinason)

* An internal audit is due.

1. Benefits Liaison (Terry Borg) Terry sent a written report as he was not able to attend the meeting.

* The University Benefits Committee has met twice (2-6-25 and 3-6-25) since the December 2024 NIUAA Board meeting. The key topics addressed at these meetings included:
* The Social Security Fairness Act is being implemented. The most recent Social Security Administration notifications informed those potentially eligible that retro benefits will be paid in March 2025, with the full non-WEP benefit being issued starting in April 2025.
* The Illinois State Legislature is addressing Tier 2 Pension Reform. Four potential changes have been proposed that will align Tier 2 benefits with Social Security's Safe Harbor expectations.
* The SURS Pension Money Purchase formula is being changed effective July 2, 2025. The change is not significant and will require one or two months of additional work to make up for this formula change. Those retiring by 7-1-25 will not be impacted by this change.

NIU's budget continues to be under a great deal of pressure resulting in significant belt tightening to maintain cash flow.

* Health Alliance HMO is closing at the end of 2025. NIU is waiting for additional details as it impacts approximately two hundred current NIU employees. Those impacted will be able to change their insurance provider during the annual Benefits Choice period.
* NIU will be hosting a Benefits Fair on 5-9-25.
* NIU is offering a retirement seminar on March 17, 2025, at 11 AM

1. Communications and webpage

* Communications task force held a meeting.
* A question was asked regarding how many hits we get on the web site. There was a discussion regarding being on Facebook or other social platforms if we are going to be relevant.
* April newsletter deadline is March 31 at 11:59 pm.

D. Education and Professional Development

E. Membership

* JoAnne Dillman and Matt Volk are interested in serving on the Board of Directors. Pat Vary is interested in a second two-year term.

F. Parking (Ferald Bryan)

The Parking Committee met in January. The February meeting was cancelled.

* Tiered parking rates beginning August 2025 will be:
* Parking fees for students/faculty/staff with salaries less than $60,000 will be $143.00.
* Parking fees for students/faculty/staff with salaries of $60,000 to $100,000 will be $145.00.
* Parking fees for students/faculty/staff with salaries more than $100,000 will be $150.00.
* Parking fees for retirees are $13.00.

G. Political Awareness

* Dave Sinason moved, and Pat Vary seconded to eliminate the Political Awareness committee report from the agenda. Motion carried.

H. Culture and Travel (Steven Johnson)

I. Social (Pat Vary)

* Pat was congratulated for her impressive job organizing today’s social.

J. Scholarship (Clair Williams)

* The committee set forth three recommendations. Based on those recommendations, the following motions were made:
* Dave Sinason moved, and Pat Vary seconded the motion to change the official name from the NIU Association Scholarship Fund to Annuitants Association Scholars. Motion passed.
* Pat Vary moved and Paul Crawford seconded the motion to offer three scholarships each year beginning in the year 2026-2027 with the exception that the College of Law will continue to be offered one scholarship. Motion passed.
* Dave Sinason moved, and Pat Vary seconded to authorize the Treasurer to donate to the scholarship fund in the amount of $1,000.00 before the end of this calendar year when requested to do so by the Chair of the Committee. Motion passed.
* The next fund-raising activity will be participating in the annual Huskies United web-based fundraising event to be held April 2-3, 2025.

**XIV. Upcoming Meetings**

* Deadlines/upcoming meetings are discussed within the body of the minutes.

**Adjournment**

Dave Sinason moved, and Pat Vary seconded to adjourn at 1:12 p.m. Motion carried.