

**Civil Service Council (CSC) Meeting
November 4, 2003
APPROVED on December 2, 2003**

Present: Vicki Bryan, Martha Burk, Julie Caplinger, Paul Collins, Steve Lancaster, Christa Lawhun, John Moss, Melody Palm, Theresa Sanchez, Pat Schnitker, Doris Shaw, Jan Jolynn Staley, Jack Wylie, Marcia Strum, Pam Burress
Absent: Andy Monninger, Elaine Thoennes, Tammy Carlson, Dave Turner
Guests: Parker Lawlis

Martha Burk opened the meeting at Noon.

ISU Annuitant's Association: Guest Parker Lawlis, President of the ISUAA, discussed current concerns and goals for the ISUAA.

- Concerns
 - Economy is the main concern. Pensions are in the stock market.
 - Governor wants to combine all 5 state pension systems.
 - Health insurance: State is renegotiating the health care package.
 - Survivors' Benefits: Spouse would currently receive 50% of the pension. Association is trying to increase this number.
 - Climate in Springfield: State budget is in the red by \$5billion. As long as spending happens and the economy is weak, pensions are in trouble. Also, the state is broke. Recently borrowed \$10billion. State must invest this at a rate higher than 5% in order to pay off the debt. State is going further into the red.

The Association is meeting with local legislators to make our concerns known. There are also active lobbying efforts. The ISU chapter of ISUAA currently has 1,037 members. There are 45 chapters in Illinois, with 10,000 members out of approximately 25,000 eligible. ISUAA is trying to let people know what they are doing, encouraging people to get involved. There are no eligibility restrictions. Anyone who is part of the SURS system is eligible.

Council raised a question concerning the Social Security Offset problem. Parker explained that we are one of 10 states with this problem because we have our own pension system. Social Security benefits are actually much lower than SURS. There is movement in Springfield concerning this problem. But it has not made it out of committee. It cannot be voted on until it is out of committee. The Association is trying to create a call/email tree, so people will know who to contact in the government, to let their concerns be known.

Council raised a question about the 5+5 policy. It is supposed to be for all state employees. Is it true, however, that is not available for State University employees? Parker will check into this and find an answer.

Council raised a question, asking what the average time is that an annuitant draws a pension. Parker was unsure of the average.

A mailer will be coming out to all employees, asking if they want to become members of ISUAA. They are currently working on making payroll deduction an option for dues.

If anyone has questions about ISUAA, they may contact Parker at parkerlawlis@yahoo.com.

On-Going Issues

- **Renaming Building for Monninger** – Christa will contact Elaine about incorporating some suggestions into the petition letter. She will email the new draft to council members when the rewrite is complete.

Committee Reports

- **Activities**
 - *Preferred Shopping Night at K's Merchandise*—Scheduled for Sunday, December 7 from 5 to 8 p.m. All ISU employees may attend. Simply show a valid ISU employee ID card.
 - *Bus Trip* – Scheduled for November 15 to Gurnee. Bus is full. There is a waiting list of 13 people still interested in going. The council discussed the possibility of a second bus. Council voted to provide \$40 of bottled water for trip (Pat, Jack)
 - *Holiday Party* – Marcia has secured a Santa Clause and Mrs. Clause for the December 6 party. We still need items for the gift bags (150); candy, bookmarks, etc. Any small items. Need information submitted to Illinois State Report. Discussed offering pictures with Santa that could be emailed or printed.
- **OpenLine** – Still some room in the next issue. Martha has a short article to contribute.

- **Parking** – Committee will request fee increase. Has been 4 years since last increase. Committee discussed the Free-Ride system that is open to all ISU students/staff/faculty, including U-High students. Paul checked into issue of motorcycle riders having to purchase 2 parking permits. He found out that if a person purchases a vehicle permit, and they occasionally ride a motorcycle instead, they are automatically given a sticker for the bike.

Other

- **Article in today's Vidette**—Council discussed article in the November 4th Vidette that indicated the possibility of cutting staff and administration. Discussion about the hiring freeze. There was a question about the hiring of an assistant for Dr. Bragg. We were told this position is actually the combining of 3 different positions, not new money. Council feels that better communication should be presented about new hires on campus. There is confusion when there is supposed to be a hiring freeze and yet people are being hired. Many times concerns might be avoided if more information was communicated to the campus. Discussion about where this information should come from. Council discussed having a substitute ex-officio Human Resource representative, in the event the HR rep cannot attend the council meetings, so that these types of questions may be raised. Martha expressed concern about shared governance on campus.
- **Veteran's Day response to OpenLine Article**—Vicki received a response from a constituent that expressed offense at the article in the October OpenLine about Veteran's Day. This person feels that we misrepresented the purpose of the day by saying "we will give special recognition to those...who have died in service." It was noted by the council that this piece was submitted by Tom Fowles, and is the communication that was presented across campus, not just in the OpenLine. Vicki checked several resources concerning the purpose of Veteran's Day.
- **Team Excellence Committee**—Council is supposed to elect a representative each year to sit on this committee. Martha found out that Steve Oltman has been the rep for 5 years. Will keep Steve again this year, and next year the council will elect.
- **CAS and CFA Dean Committee Elections**—Information went out to the civil service staff in each respective college. We will be using electronic voting. Since this will be a small group, this will be a good time to try out the system for possible future elections.
- **Constituent Concern**—Steve presented a concern from a civil service employee. In the minutes from the October 7 minutes, it was stated that the Family Campaign would be sending a letter to any member who has not contributed to the campaign. This person was concerned about being identified as a non-contributor. Also, questioned if their respective supervisor had access to this information, could it affect performance review, etc. Council noted that the list of all contributors is on the web and is accessible to anyone. Council also noted that not contributing should not affect a person's performance review. If someone has further concerns about this information being public, they should contact Pat Grogg at the Family Campaign.

Reminders

- Deadline for next two OpenLines—November 4 and December 12
- Guest on November 18: Janet Deutsch – Downtown Normal
- Guest on December 2—Joe Rives to get out endorsement of the new Educating Illinois—3rd draft will be available soon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05pm (Paul, Vicki)

The next regular Civil Service Council meeting will be held Tuesday November 18, at Noon, in the Bone Student Center Spotlight Room.