

PLEASE POST, ROUTE, OR COPY TO CIVIL SERVICE STAFF

**Civil Service Council (CSC) Meeting  
January 18, 2005  
APPROVED**

Present: Martha Burk, Julie Caplinger, Tammy Carlson, Steve Lancaster, Christa Lawhun,  
Melody Palm, Tom D. Ryan, Theresa Sanchez, Pat Schnitker, Marcia Strum, Dave Turner,  
Jack Wylie

Absent: Vicki Bryan, Pam Burress, Paul Collins, John Moss, Jan Jolynn Staley, Elaine Thoennes

Guests: Jan Cook

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Martha called the meeting to order at 12:05.

**Approval of Minutes**— Minutes for Nov 16 were approved (Christa/Tom)

**On-going—**

- Spring Bus Trip- Those with suggestions for destinations and dates should bring them to the next meeting.
- Food Drive - Theresa is working on tentative plans for March. There was brief discussion about how the tsunami disaster may affect local giving and needs. Should tax time be considered in the timing? ISU Spring break Mar 12-20 may also affect available participants and funds.
- Distinguished Service awards. Nomination deadline March 1. Forms should be out about by February 1.
- OpenLine -- Already have an ad for February.
- Human Resources – Caremark’s trouble continues. (Caremark may be the mail-in drug supplier, depending on your health care plan.) They are under investigation for selling returned drugs. If found true, this would be grounds for terminating their state contract.

Health Alliance has a new mail-order program. They’re also sending mailings to members to inform them about the new plan. Jan Cook reported that a recent Chicago Tribune article included information regarding an alternate plan. No information has been received on campus.

Minnesota Life forms – Staff who receive a request for a new beneficiary designation form from Minnesota Life are encouraged to complete and send in the forms, even when they believe they’ve already done so. Minnesota Life is still working out the bugs in their new bar code system. Some forms weren’t recorded as being received even though they may have been sent to Minnesota Life.

The University is required to provide information about the Social Security act and potential repercussions of the Social Security Offset to new hires.

**Other --**

Dave Turner: Employee Advisory Committee report. – EAC approved a new constitution and bylaws. The most important outcome of meeting was consensus to return to campuses and make opinions known about changes in retirement benefit. Dave recommends staff join the Annuitants Association to support their work lobbying the state legislature on behalf of retirees and current staff. State government hasn’t done their part to fund the retirement program. SURS management and employee contributions have done their best. Staff can’t afford an attitude of “it doesn’t apply to me.” Merit Board meets Jan 26, in Urbana. The next EAC meeting will be April 14 and 15 in Rockford.

Governor's pension commission: Bill Brady is chair of the Pension commission. The commission is considering changes in retirement funding structure. Suggestions so far have been to reduce benefits or increase employee contributions, or both. SURS believes that some of the proposals aren't legal. The State Journal Register recently had an article addressing the money purchase program. SURS is concerned that it could be addressed without a constitutional change. About 75% of retirees utilize the program. Marcia asked if there's been any talk about annuitants and civil service staff making a trip to Springfield (or Chicago) to make a unified statement.

Jan indicated that Bill Brady has been speaking up on our benefit. We should keep him informed. Annuitants are inviting other legislators to quarterly luncheons. The Annuitants Association is hosting the Feb 25 University Club meeting. The speaker is Tom Wilson, a retired Politics & Government professor, and experienced lobbyist with State Legislators.

Jan also shared that the Annuitants Association will be having Bill Carter back next fall to talk about Social Security and what's involved in turning 65. Details will be shared with CSC as they become available.

Team Excellence nominations are due Jan. 21. Presentations will be made at Founder's Day.

**Reminders:**

Joe Rives will provide an update on Educating Illinois and NCA visit – CSC Meeting, Feb. 1  
Deadline for next OpenLine - Feb. 1  
NCA Accreditation Site Visit - Feb. 14-16  
Founder's Day - Feb. 17  
Board of Trustee's Mtg. - Feb. 18  
Monical's Community Night April 11

VI. Web Sites

State Universities Civil Service System: <http://www.sucss.state.il.us>  
SUCSS Classification Status Notices: <http://www.sucss.state.il.us/cpm.asp>  
Annuitants: <http://www.annuitants.ilstu.edu>  
Civil Service Council: <http://www.cscouncil.ilstu.edu>  
A/P Council: <http://www.apcouncil.ilstu.edu>  
Academic Senate: <http://www.academicsenate.ilstu.edu>  
Human Resources: <http://www.hr.ilstu.edu>

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m. (Christa/Tom)

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The next regular Civil Service Council meeting will be held Tuesday, February 1, at Noon in the Bone Student Center Spotlight Room