

Illinois State University  
**Civil Service Council**  
November 7, 2006  
APPROVED

Present: Barb Arbogast, Vicki Bryan, Martha Burk, Jac Copes, Sarita Cox, Linda Klawitter, Steve Lancaster, John Moss, Melody Palm, Pat Schnitker, Nancy Spangler, Jan Jolynn Staley, Ron Thompson, Kevin Wiand, Jack Wylie  
Absent: Pam Burress, Julie Caplinger, Andy Monninger, Dave Turner  
Guests: Jan Cook, Annuitants Representative

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Melody called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm

Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept minutes of October 17 - Vicki/Ron

**On-going:**

- Fall Bus Trip – no report
- Children’s Holiday Party – Pat reports that location for party has been confirmed for the Horton Field House. The committee is looking forward to the larger space than has been available in the past. There will be four sets of bleachers on the north end of the field house. Tables and chairs will be available for kids and parents while eating cookies, resting, etc. With an emphasis on diversity, AP Council members are preparing displays depicting the various international cultural sites for celebrating the respective holidays at this time of the year. AP Council is planning to provide a large inflatable/jumping station. Santa, Mrs. Claus, elves and a tin soldier have confirmed their attendance, as well as Reggie Redbird. With 2 photographers, children will be able to choose to have photo taken with Santa or with Reggie – will also have the option of both photos if time permits. We yet need ideas for a photo backdrop. Article has been submitted for the *OpenLine*. Dr. Bowman is not available to attend but Mrs. Bowman has been invited (no response as of today’s date). President Bowman will sponsor the cookies. Still seeking face painter and henna painter – believe the henna painter at Sugar Creek festival is from Champaign, committee will continue to search. All seems to be coming together nicely – need lots of volunteers/helpers (before, during and after the event).
- Brotherhood Tree – John Moss reports that Bob is retiring in early 2007 and we will need to find new volunteer to take over this annual activity, hopefully someone that could work with Bob this season and ‘learn the ropes’. John said he is willing to help but cannot take on the full responsibility of this project. Project involves: distributing drop boxes; occasionally unload and store donations; pick up drop boxes when the project has ended. The project accepts donations for all ages – wrapped but identified as to age/gender, etc. Kevin indicated an interest in helping. Barb suggested that AP Council be offered an opportunity to be involved in this project. Statistics have been available as to what sites are most productive - - some ‘buildings’ on campus have similar simultaneous projects sponsored by other groups (i.e. student groups, etc.) that would deter from donations to Brotherhood Tree.
- Legislative/Marketing - Steve had no report but encouraged everyone to GO VOTE!!!
- Annuitants Report: Jan recapped some items from the October 17, 2006 meeting held in Urbana. Relayed to us the concerns of the group as to the issues of dues increase and mandatory donation to political arena. Actual voting was postponed until March due to the

fact that the constitution of the organization requires major hearings on such matters. Jan shared with us some written comments from Christ Schwelle. Up front we are to be aware that the following comments are the personal opinion of Mr. Schwelle and should not be interpreted otherwise: (1) Re: Contributions by members for political donations – Schwelle says the amount being discussed (\$450K annually) is unrealistically high, he feels SUAACTION will not work toward soliciting this amount of money. Chapters, leaders and/or individual members will not dedicate the kind of work necessary to raise this kind of money. A big clue should be the number of folks at the meeting who were speaking out against this mandatory donation action. (2) Concern for pension well-being: Schwelle indicates that his feeling is that “the sky is not falling” and thinks despite inadequate funding our pensions remain relatively safe. “The state has an enforceable contractual obligation to pay pensions . . . the state needs to be reminded of the obligation and the impact this can have when the state is compelled to pay-up.” Schwelle goes on to say that the possible taxing of pension income and other issues affecting members can be effectively addressed without political donations. (3) Schwelle feels that at least for the time being, SUAACTION should table aggressive solicitation for the purpose of donating to political candidates. SUAACTION should establish realistic goals for voluntary contributions to be used for strengthening local grass roots political activity – short of contributing to politicians. This could include reimbursing leaders for attending fund-raisers, local groups sponsoring forums and other forms of political activity. SUAACTION should consider broadening the potential use for funds it controls to include possible legal defense of earned benefits. Jan noted that feedback from chapter has been positive – tone of October meeting was such that “it” will not fly – the point of adding staff members. It might mean that the group should consider legitimately moving part-time staff members to full time – it would make sense to have knowledgeable staff to answer questions, etc. The group needs to concentrate on a strong membership drive.

- Academic Senate/Campus Information – will forward meeting minutes via email rather than summarize in our meeting. College of Business Dean, Dixie Mills will retire as of July 31, 2007 – we need to submit names of four Civil Service staff members from the College of Business and one will be chosen to be part of the dean’s search committee.
- OpenLine – No Report – John Moss needs more time to prepare his article
- Human Resources – Nancy shared that she has talked with trainers for the on-line application procedure – if asked we should have folks call HR and training will be set up ‘as needed’ rather than a pre-set schedule. Questions should be directed to Diane Ruch/438-8311.
- Foundation – Kevin reports there is support to increase our scholarship funding – too late for FY 07 but request will be considered for FY08. Finance committee also noted that funds earmarked (\$4000 awards/\$2000scholarships) can be switched to either category as to need. This action must be requested by fiscal agent (Ira Schoenwald) at the request of the CSC Chair. However, the foundation committee does wonder why previous monies have not been not been used in full – to justify an increase we should make sure we use all that is budgeted. Foundation funds cannot be used for non-ISU students – some of our scholarship funds are given to dependents of ISU staff not attending school at ISU. It was suggested that they budget the funds and we then will determine how to split between staff awards and student scholarships. Kevin also reported that there is a separate pool of money in Foundation for doing real estate purchases – LLC – foundation can purchase – ISU cannot – that ‘body’ is going to purchase the old Eagle store site and additional parking area. Foundation will then lease these spaces to ISU. Lease income goes back into Foundation account and money can be accumulated for future property purchases. At this time it has not been determined what

offices/departments will be relocated to the Eagle location but it will definitely be non-academic departments.

#### Open Discussion regarding scholarships:

- Scholarship Awards – A council member voiced concern as to why scholarship awards are given to non-ISU students. It was suggested that we reconsider to whom these awards are given. In response, it was stated that last year there were 17 applicants and less than half were ISU students. The main intent is to help ISU Civil Service employees regardless of which school their dependents are attending. It was further suggested that we gather or begin to log statistics of the students receiving these awards and their achievements/accomplishments.
- Will our scholarship awards be a part of Founders Day 2007 celebration/award ceremony?
- Diane Ashbey offered to help in raising funds - we need to find out more information.

#### Reminders

- Deadline for next 2 OpenLines —November 7, December 5 –
- Flu Shot clinic begins next week
- Deb Smitley presentation Educating Illinois—November 7 – will reschedule
- Distinguished Service Award nomination deadline—December 1 – email out to deans, chairs
- Children’s Holiday Party—December 2

#### 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>

At 12:55 pm motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn. (Pat/Linda)

A brief Executive Committee meeting followed the meeting.

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The next regular Civil Service Council meeting will be held Tuesday, November 21, 2006 at Noon in the Bone Student Center Spotlight Room