

Illinois State University
Civil Service Council
March 20, 2007
Approved Minutes

Present: Mark Buckley, Martha Burk, Julie Caplinger, Jac Copes, Linda Klawitter, John Moss, Melody Palm, Pat Schnitker, Nancy Spangler, Jan Jolynn Staley, Ron Thompson, Dave Turner, Kevin Wiand
Absent: Barb Arbogast, Vicki Bryan, Pam Burress, Sarita Cox, Andy Monniger, Jack Wylie
Guests: Jim Carlson, Jayne Shindel, Alan P. Hasty, Carol Morgan, Sharon Leipold, Cathy Clark

The meeting was called to order at 12:02.

Presentation: Jim Carlson

Jim is currently chair of the State Universities Retirement System of Illinois Member Advisory Committee (SURS-MAC). There are a couple of representatives from each university. The group meets twice a year to receive updates and provide feedback between SURS participants (university constituents) and the SURS Administration and Board of Trustees. The SURS system is about 65% funded. Investments have been receiving good returns. The initial 2007 state budget includes potential strategies for funding required state contributions that have been deferred in previous years. The SURS Board of Trustees is diligent in protecting benefits for SURS members. One of the most important things going on now is the change in the actuarial tables used to calculate annuities. State law requires review of the tables every five years. Information on life expectancies, salary levels, investment returns and other factors are taken into consideration. For those retiring under the money purchase formula, these changes will probably result in a small decrease of the monthly annuity. The new tables become effective September 2, 2007. About 60% of members enrolled in the Traditional or Portable Plans retire under the Money Purchase formula.

For anyone eligible to retire prior to September 2, 2007, and considering working beyond that date, Jim recommends scheduling an appointment with a SURS counselor, and/or using the online estimator to determine the personal effect of these changes in the actuarial tables. The effective date of the revised tables was changed from July 1, on the recommendation of SURS-MAC. The September date more accurately reflects the academic calendar, and reduces issues with summer term employment. The SURS website includes the estimator, an electronic newsletter, and access to your personal annuity statement. A member login is needed for some areas of the website. Your SURS member ID# (check your SURS statement) is required to create the member login. SURS Legislative platform includes technical bills, a Resolution supporting repeal of the federal Social Security Offset, and efforts to provide Veterans who joined SURS since 1974 with the same tax advantages related to employer contributions when buying Service Credit as existed prior to 1974.

Jim responded to questions. For those enrolled in the Traditional and Portable plans, both the 2.2% and the Money Purchase Formulas will be used to estimate benefits at the time you retire. You receive whichever annuity is higher.

The choice of retirement plan – Traditional, Portable, or Self-Managed—is made at the time of employment and can't be changed. The information provided by the estimator may be useful in deciding on other retirement investments such as 403B or 457 plans and retirement dates. The “lost investment” income resulting in the State deferring employer contributions to pension plans is factored into what the State owes in back payments. The amount owed to SURS and other pension plans is based on a ratio between assets and liabilities. Participants in Self-managed plans receive the State (Employer) Contribution in their plan each paycheck.

Jim will provide information about open meetings to the Council after checking into it. Additional questions and feedback concerning SURS may be emailed to jimcarlson@ilstu.edu

On-going:

- Elections—Nomination information will be going out soon.

- Annuitants Representative—No Report

- Academic Senate/Campus Information—No Report
Today is Ron Thompson's last CSC meeting. Ron is retiring the end of the month. Ron was recognized for his service as a Council member. Julie Caplinger will take Ron's place on the Parking/Transportation Committee.

- Employee Advisory Committee—EAC will be meeting in April. Please forward any concerns to Dave Turner

- OpenLine—No Report

- Human Resources—Nancy reported that HR is working on an annual employee educational calendar with our 403b vendors. The vendor representatives are financial planners available to assist employees with their financial planning needs (i.e. supplementing SURS benefits). The HR website includes information on the six different vendors under Tax Saving Option on the Benefits tab. The Benefits Choice Fair will be May 1, and most of the investment vendors are expected to be there.
HR is closer to rolling out updated new-employee orientation, and will be seeking feedback when the program is ready. HR is partnering with CTLT to utilize training space and equipment as well as electronic tools and resources on campus.
Information about the benefits choice period will be going out to home addresses in a few weeks.

- Spring Activities
Bus Trip: ISU Night at Wrigley Field, May 30, was announced in the March Openline. Registrations have started arriving.

Raffle: Martha distributed raffle tickets to be sold. Pam is coordinating donations of prize items.

Food Drive: Kevin has made two trips to Clare House, and has a third load ready to go in his pickup. Good participation in the event. Kevin shared a Thank You letter from Clare House. Monical's Community Day is scheduled for April 25. A percentage of purchases made with the flier (dine in or carry out) will be contributed to CSC.

Reminders

- Deadline for next 2 OpenLines —April 3, May 1
- CSC meetings: April 3, April 17

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>
- State Universities Retirement System: <http://www.surs.com>
- 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 adjourned at 12:55 (Jan Jolynn/Julie)