

Illinois State University

Civil Service Council (CSC) Meeting

October 21, 2008

Approved Minutes

Present: David Bagnell, Valrie Bridson, Vicki Bryan, Jac Copes, Tom Cotton, Ted Coussens, Sarita Cox, Jean Darnall, Brian Huonker, Melody Palm, Jan Jolynn Staley, Nancy Spangler, Pam Burress

Absent: Barb Arbogast, Mark Buckley, Jeanette Harrison, Theresa Sanchez, Dave Turner, Kevin Wiand

Guest: Jan Cook, Stephen Dennie

Council Chair Melody called the meeting to order at 12:02 pm.

-Approved minutes: Oct 21 minutes, corrections submitted and done, Jean/Tom to approve, Jac opposed, motion carried. Jac – would like to have the August 20th memorandum from HR included in the minutes. Melody – would like to point out is has never been our practice to include reports in the minutes, it is basically an inter-office memo that is incomplete, a preparatory step in this process, it needs a lot more information before inclusion in the minutes. Jac – would further like to back up my position from emails that included intentions to be part of this committee - that is not active, would like to bring it to the forefront so that it ‘does not lose its life.’ Would like to simply see the memorandum stay active. Nancy – at last meeting, it was distributed with the understanding that it was for consideration of the CSC, if it was appropriate to distribute to the campus it would have been distributed, would not like the memorandum to be widely distributed. Melody – we are not refusing to send information out, just not sending it out in this form, Council members are available for any questions that constituents may have regarding the memorandum and its contents, as is HR. Discussion followed.

Ongoing Discussion Topics:

Jim Carlson presenting on SURS meeting from last week: things are pretty stable, but the way markets have been lately, he stopped by to discuss. SURS is a very good steward for our money, of balancing the portfolio and risk, funding ration has dropped, down to 58.5% as of June 30th (a year ago was at about 60%) and probably a little lower as of right now, but is protected under the Constitution. They try to do what they can with investments, otherwise it’s backed by the State. There’s a newsletter on the website that talks about that protection and impact of the volatile markets. As an individual, we should feel pretty good, Traditional and Portable plans have the defined benefit and that’s protected; Self-managed, markets go up and down, for those who are relatively early in their careers this will hopefully just be a bump on the road, long-term should be fine, historically the markets come back up in time.

SURS as an agency has taken a position on the Constitutional Convention, that basically everyone should educate themselves on the issue, SURSMAC as an institution recommended that individuals vote ‘no.’ Dave B. – is there a funding level when the Federal Government steps in to fund? Jim – because the state system is backed by the state, it is guaranteed thru the State Constitution. Dave B. – is there anything about a drop in benefits when funding drops? Jim – no, a model is used that by 2045 they will have the fund up to 90%, they take into consideration what the investment returns have been and adjust accordingly. They are looking at a \$1.2 billion increase in state pension, that’s for all pensions in the state, not just SURS, it’s what all lawmakers are going to look at when they figure the budget, it’s an estimate, a ‘ramp up’, after that if they can come up with the initial funds it will have more natural growth. SURS is in as good of shape as anybody is. By law they are required to fund the pension systems, there are plenty of people out there fighting for it to be funded as it’s supposed to be.

Jac – are there concerns regarding the call for a Constitutional Convention? Jim – biggest concern would be for future retirees. Jac – would that mean that all pension programs would be open to complete revision? Jim – yes, the concern that SURSMAC would have would be about the wording.

Those in the Traditional and Portable plan should feel a lot better than a lot of other people in the country right now, we’re in pretty good shape, Self-Managed plan will have to plan a little more carefully, but in the long term this should work out fine.

- **Quarterly Treasurer’s Report** – Theresa not present, will report at future meeting.
- **Committee Reports** -
 - o Homecoming – Parade went well, all candy used, special thanks to Facilities Management for use of one of their pickups and chairs.
 - o Fall Bus Trip – Pam – number so far is 31, so best guess is we’re still in the hole by \$200, today is the last day, we will have seats open.
 - o Holiday Children’s Party – A/P council is doing all their parts, cookies have been pre-ordered 30 dozen decorated and 10 dozen glazed, discussions of popcorn still being worked on, gift bags are the last detail to work out. JanJolynn – already had two families reserve their spot and the announcement just came out today in the OpenLine.
- **EAC Representative** – Dave T. not present, no news.
- **Annuitants Representative** – Jan Cook – State Annuitants also voted to oppose the Constitutional Convention, there are good protections in the present constitution that do not need improved and are likely to be amended or lost if there is another Convention, reason for even calling has more to do with the current players than the rules of the game. On lighter note, Annuitant’s Association have established a Helping Hamper for the Crisis Nursery.
- **Academic Senate/Campus Info/Foundation** – Brian – two meetings ago talked about approval of university statement, group got together to write a new one, distance education task force was discussed, last meeting they talked about the budget and what they plan to ask the State for, CVA/CFA a high priority. Requesting more money for a lot of the projects that have been put off, to update facilities around campus, will update when more info available, meetings are every other Wednesday at 7pm in the Bone Student Center. Senator Dan Brady going to be at the Academic Senate tomorrow night to address various issues. Let Brian know what issues the CSC would like the Senate to be aware of. Melody - there is a Board of Trustees meeting as well.
- **OpenLine** – Pam – for the next issue, University Staff Association going to put in their holiday luncheon, in previous years had holiday party on the front, are we doing the Brotherhood Tree? Melody – Kevin Wiand coordinated last year, will investigate.
- **Human Resources** – Central Management Services have been mailing Benefits Choice Options Period 2 booklets if you want to make changes, enrollment period is October 27 to November 14, 2008, it is mailed to your residence.

New Business:

- Melody - If you are McLean county resident (but not Bloomington) there is an early voting station in One West Lounge in the BSC. Jean – it is open 9-4:30, Monday thru Friday, and ends 10-30-08.
- **Committee: Technology & Email Access** – Comments/recommendations that were provided since last meeting were compiled and distributed by Melody – need to involve some representative people from the groups that are not getting computer access in their daily work life. Jac – these are not policy, correct? Melody – correct, these are

questions and recommendations for consideration, they are reprinted as they were submitted. Nancy – would like to address question, HRIS: www.hris.ilstu.edu. Explanation of the purpose of HRIS is listed on their website. Also, what ‘Appendix A’ referred to was more information concerning payroll’s report that did not have relevant information to the committee, so it was not included. Also, there were 4 Civil Service and 2 A/P on the committee, Nancy included. Melody – this doesn’t just address CS staff, there are faculty associates, part-time employees, temporary help, this program is aimed at university wide? Nancy – at the current time it would be a fair statement that we do not have A/P or Faculty or Faculty Associate having problems accessing electronic devices, they may have other avenues for access.

Melody – suggests we re-convene or convene a new committee concerning this information, maybe outline the issues from the council’s perspective, should include Council members and recruit individuals affected. Issues exist on both sides, would involve finding ways of resolving those issues. It has been about a year since this has been brought to Council’s attention. Brian volunteered to head-up the committee; Jac, Tom, and Dave also volunteered to contribute.

Jac – Fall bus trip, council may want to consider canceling that if we are taking a loss on it. Melody – there was some discussion at the last meeting, it was decided that it was in the best interests of the Council to go thru with it since so much was done to plan, reservations/money were submitted, it is a service we provide to our constituents and there is a sense of obligation to follow thru. In the future a cancellation-clause may be included should we suffer a large loss financially. Jac – motioned that the bus trip be cancelled, Dave B. seconded, Brian abstained due to conflict of interest [signed up to go on the trip], motion defeated. Dave B. – when’s the last time we made money on a trip? Melody – we consistently make money on the Cubs trip, about \$1,000 a year roughly, on average.

Vicki – had three phone calls this morning, concerns regarding retiree deaths will be in the ISU Annuitant’s Newsletter only, no longer in the OpenLine. Their comments were that they would like to see that remain in the OpenLine. Discussion followed; Pam - Dianne Liebestien is responsible

for that info in the OpenLine, she would be the person to contact if people are wanting to keep it in every issue.

Jan Jolynn/Vicki motioned to adjourn, motion carried at 1:10pm.

Reminders:

Deadline for next two OpenLines – Nov 5, Dec 3

CSC Meetings – Nov 4, Nov 18

Gurnee Mills Mall bus trip, Sat Oct 25

Children’s Holiday Party – Sunday Dec 7

Web Sites of interest:

- 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.academicssenate.ilstu.edu>
- Human Resources: <http://www.hr.ilstu.edu>

The next regular Civil Service Council meeting will be held Tuesday, November 4, 2008 at Noon in the Bone Student Center Spotlight Room.