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Illinois State University Civil Service Council (CSC) Meeting February 7, 2012
Approved motion by Amanda Smith, second by Christa Lawhun; motion carried

Present: Barb Arbogast, Kathy Scott, Seann Berrocales, Christa Lawhun, Lois Soeldner, Amanda Smith, Rick Marr, Bob Blick, Jason Taylor, Dara Gibson, Jean Darnall, and Maureen Peel.

Not Present: Carol Pfoff, Andrea Rediger, Diana Nelson.

Guests: Jan Cook and Jean Ann Dargatz

The meeting was called to order by chair, Jean Darnall, at 12:01 p.m. in the Third Floor East Lounge of the Bone Student Center.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 17 minutes was made by Bob Blick. The motion was seconded by Lois Soeldner.

There were no remarks from the Chair.

Rick Marr reported he had attended the January EAC meeting and at that time was elected to the executive board. Legal counsel discussed EAC members taking Open Meeting Act training. Rick stated there was a question whether council members should participate in Open Meeting Act training. If you are in an elected position and subject to the rules of the Open Meeting Act, you are entitled to take the training. Legal counsel stated that no one is really keeping track of who has taken the training. It was suggested that we contact someone from our own General Counsel Office to determine whether we should take the training. Lois Soeldner will check with Legal Counsel on this issue.

Rick has checked with other state universities to determine whether they have experienced problems similar to ours with their Wellness programs. To date he had received four responses, and all of those indicated they have the same caveat regarding operational needs.

Rick stated that ISU will host the EAC July meeting. It is a two-day meeting and open to anyone on campus. Costs for the meeting will be covered by HR.

Jean Ann Dargartz presented a report re the December SURSMAC meeting. She reported SURS is expecting pending legislation to be discussed after the primary elections. She stated SURS is healthy, and they believe the legislators are trying to make it seem as though there is a pension crisis in order to get support for pending legislation. She added that SURS simply needs the State to meet its funding commitment. SURS believes there will be an increase in applications (expecting approximately 35% more) when the legislature begins its discussions. SURS is going to try to make the application process more efficient so a larger volume can be handled in a timely manner.

Maureen Peel distributed copies of the Treasurer's Quarterly Report to council members. Extraordinary expenses for this time period included monies pay out for scholarships, annual raffle, bus trip, and holiday party.

Jean Darnall announced that Theresa Sanchez is assuming an AP position and thus will no longer be able to serve as our representative on the Foundation Board of Directors. Jean has appointed Maureen to fill that vacancy.

Rick informed the council that the state civil service website now has a section for award winners. He suggested this might be a good opportunity for us to include the winners of this year's Distinguished Civil Service Award. Any information for this site should be submitted to Amanda Smith.

Jan Cook suggested that a bit of trivia that might be interesting to include on that website. She stated that ISU has more campus buildings named for civil service employees than other state university!

Jan discussed with council members a list of proposals that will likely be considered in the spring legislative session. She was interested in gathering feedback regarding areas where annuitants might consider a compromised position or "what we can live without." Discussion centered around different proposals including one to raise the age at which a pension can be collected and another regarding cost of living benefits. Jan also felt that these proposals would be brought before the legislature after the primary elections.

Amanda Smith discussed Zimride which is now available to the ISU campus community. It is an opportunity for any individual to share a ride with someone needing to travel to the same destination. Amanda suggested anyone having an interest in Zimride should contact WGLT or the office of Parking and Transportation at Illinois State University.

Maureen asked if there were plans again this year for a trip to a Chicago Cubs game. Jean answered there will be a trip, but few details are known at this time as he is waiting to receive information from the Cubs.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barb Arbogast. It was seconded by Bob Blick.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen K. Peel