

Illinois State University Civil Service Council (CSC) Meeting May 6, 2014

Present: Amanda Smith, Bob Blick, Bob Blythe, Jacob DeGeal, Amy Witzig, Lois Soeldner, Glen Dawson, Dara Gibson, and Maureen Peel

Guests: Jan Cook, Colette Homan

Not Present: Carol Pfoff, Jean Darnall, Capri Gonzalez, Kathleen Webster, Jacob DeGeal, and Rick Marr.

The meeting was called to order by chairperson Lois Soeldner.

The minutes from the meeting of April 15 were approved.

There was no treasurer's report.

Jean Ann Dargatz, SURSMAC representative, gave a report of their last meeting held April 7. She reported that since January there have been 1400 one-on-one meetings with staff. As a result of the volume of people requesting meetings, SURS has begun seeing individuals in group sessions. Individual one-on-one sessions are offered then for those still needing additional information. Three webinars have been offered, and a total of 1600 individuals have attended those. Jean Ann encouraged individuals to look at the website and stated there is a benefits calculator available there. Individuals are encouraged to request one-on-one appointments only if they are planning to retire in the near future.

Chair comments—

- Lois reported she attended an event honoring Michael Collins. Brochures regarding organ donations were distributed.
- She also reported the Campus Communication Committee will present a letter to the Board of Trustees on Friday. Among other things, the letter mentions that President Dietz has joined other presidents and chancellors of Illinois public universities in a letter to Governor Quinn and legislative leaders requesting timely measures to correct legislation wording errors in the recently passed pension reform law.
- Lois, Maureen, and Amanda attended a meeting with executive board members of the Administrative/ Professional Council. Lois and Alex Skorpinski, chair of the A/P Council will meet together with Dr. Dietz instead of individually during the summer months.
- Lois read a resolution the Academic Senate will present this week at its meeting, and, if it passes, to the Board of Trustees. A portion of the resolution reads as follows: "Given that the Senate is the highest body representing faculty, administrative professionals, civil service employees, and students..." A discussion followed, and it is felt the Academic Senate is not the highest body representing civil service employees, and they should not be speaking for us. Lois will be looking into the matter to determine whether the wording can be changed. While the Council supports matters raised in the resolution, we do not feel the Senate should be speaking on our behalf without our consent.

OpenLine—Amanda Smith reported that she and Jacob DeGeal have been discussing with Liz Laron and Narry Kim a possible redesign of the OpenLine. The new design will begin in June. Amanda also reported their office is working to design a website format for the OpenLine. This would mean cost cuts in the production of the OpenLine. Additionally, Liz has indicated she is finding it difficult to devote sufficient time to the OpenLine, and a website design would help in this area. It will still be necessary to mail hard copies of the newsletter to those employees and retirees who have limited access to computers. There will be ample notification to the campus community if this change is made.

Human Resources—no report.

EAC—no report.

Annuitants—Jan Cook stated that hearing no news from Springfield is sending a mixed message. There was also discussion relating to the problems the State will face as a result of the increased number of retirees leaving its employment. Many of these retirees are employees with the most seniority and will be taking with them large amounts of knowledge.

Food Drive—Bob Blick reported they delivered a large load of food to the Western Avenue Community Center Food Pantry. Fell Hall did exceptionally well in the drive as students in a class there were given extra credit for contributing food. Bob read a thank-you letter from the executive director of the Western Avenue Community Center thanking ISU for its help with its food pantry.

Elections—Maureen Peel presented Jacob's notes regarding elections. The process is going well. Jacob had received some e-mails regarding Group 1 not having a candidate. He was able to explain there was an error in last year's election, and the problem will be corrected in next year's election. Amanda reminded council members that candidates are not allowed to campaign for themselves through campus mail. Results of the election should be available by the end of the day on Friday.

Ball Game Tickets—Amanda reported there are tickets still available. More than 30 have been requested. Paid tickets total 27.

Dara Gibson reported she has received two scholarship applications. She will keep those until after the election.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bob Blythe and seconded by Amy Witzig.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Peel