

2025-2026 CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL
Wednesday, January 7, 2026
Student Services Building Room 307
1:00 PM

I. Call to Order

The January meeting was called to order by President Elizabeth Cheek.

II. Roll Call of Membership

Present: Thomas Becker, Elizabeth Cheek, Odessa Colombo, Mickel Cordes, Ann Coward, Cyndy Green, Kristen Matthews, Diane McIntyre, Jason Phillips, Rick Pierson, Marianne Schoonover, Jamie Schrader, and Anthony Travelstead.

Absent: Liz Franklin, Amelia Ketzle, Terry Richardson, Dina Timmons, and Christopher Vick.

Guests: Melissa Laake and Kristie Parkins.

III. Guest Speaker - (none)

IV. Human Resources – *Nicholas Wortman, Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources* - (no report)

V. Public Comments - (none)

VI. Approval of the Minutes for December 3, 2025

Motion: A. Travelstead

Second: C. Green

A vote commenced: 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions; The minutes from December 3, 2025, were approved as presented.

VII. Announcements – M. Schoonover stated the Student Center is having a Saluki after-hours social called Unleashed on January 29, 2026, from 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. at Old Main Lounge for faculty, staff, and retirees. They are looking for sponsors each month. This month's theme is piano bar, and SUAA is the sponsor.

VIII. Reports

A. Council President

1. **Chancellor's Meeting** – We have not met. Next meeting is January 9, 2026.

2. **Board of Trustees' Meeting** – Next meeting is February 6, 2025, at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville.

3. **Chancellor's Leadership Council** – No meeting in December. No report.

B. School of Medicine Civil Service Council – *Kristie Parkins* – Committee has not met. They had a Jingle Mingle holiday celebration last month. There were 15 tables decorated by different departments; the theme was a time machine.

C. Annuity Association – A. Travelstead stated he spoke with Caroline Harvey today. Mark Watson is acting President; they met in December. Mark also attended the statewide meeting in Springfield for SUAA. The next meeting is February 18, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. A request for all council members and constituents to obtain a SUAA membership was encouraged, because they fight for our benefits within the state.

D. SURS Member Advisory – *Elizabeth Cheek* – The committee has not met.

E. Council Committees

1. **Executive/Budget – *Tony Travelstead*** – They met December 15, 2026, and set the agenda.

2. **Bylaws – *Marianne Schoonover*** – The committee has not met.

3. **Civil Service Benefits – *Odessa Colombo/Amelia Ketzle*** - Committee has not met.
4. **Education Assistance – *Tony Travelstead*** – The committee met December 19, 2026, to discuss fundraising and review applicants for spring awards. Fundraising profits are the following: holiday luncheon \$925, MODS Pizza \$71, Quatro’s Pizza \$276, Silkworm \$832, payroll deductions \$438, plus interest from endowment \$3,154 = TOTAL \$5,696. The next Quatro’s Pizza days will be in February and April. The committee made a recommendation to the Council to tentatively approve the 36 applicants for the Education Assistance Award to receive an award of \$200 each on final verification that all the requirements are met instead of \$158.22 with the difference coming out of the Councils reserve fund.

Motion: A. Coward

Second: J. Schrader

A vote commenced: 0 Nays, 2 Abstentions; The motion passed. The Education Assistance Award Recipients for spring 2026 will receive \$200 each.

C. Green stated the fundraiser for working at the concession is on February 12, 2026. Eight volunteers are needed. Sign-up sheet is in Teams. Profits will be 10% of total sales.

A. Travelstead stated the tentative date for the Flea Market is April 25, 2026. D. McIntyre discussed having a possible plant sale (house plant sale or poinsettia sale). She has been in contact with Clint Chamness at the greenhouse on campus about growing plants and selling them.

5. **Elections – *Tony Travelstead*** - Committee has not met; they’ll meet next Wednesday, January 14, 2026. The Committee is also scheduled to meet on April 9, 2026, to review election results to report to the Council President for seating of New Members at the May Council meeting. Microsoft Forms have been updated in preparation of Statement of Candidacy forms and Council Election Ballot emails.
6. **Public Information – *Thomas Becker*** - Committee has not met. T. Becker will schedule a meeting next week. The HR open forum will be pushed back; they will find a new date.
7. **Range – *Tony Travelstead/Ann Coward*** – Committee has not met. A. Travelstead, E. Cheek, and A. Coward met and decided to wait on the FOIA request until the ACsE’s Union contract was finalized.

F. Constituency Committees

1. **Academic Calendar Committee – *Todd Duermyer*** – (no report)
2. **Advisory Committee to the Director of Public Safety – *Andy Hawkins*** – (no report)
3. **Technology Advisory Committee – *Ann Coward*** – Committee has not met.
4. **Honorary Degrees – *Todd Duermyer*** – (no report)
5. **Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory – *A. Travelstead*** - Committee has not met.
6. **Naming University Facilities – *Marianne Schoonover*** - Committee has not met.
7. **Parking and Traffic Appeals – *Mickel Cordes*** - Committee has not met.
8. **Recreational Sports and Services Advisory – *Shari Garnett*** – (no report)
9. **Student Center Advisory – *Todd Duermyer*** – (no report)
10. **Traffic and Parking – *Stacia Werner*** - (no report)
11. **University Joint Benefits – *Dina Timmons/Elizabeth Cheek*** – Committee has not met.
12. **Staff Excellence Committee – *Cyndy Green*** – Nominations are due January 23, 2026; the first meeting will be after nominations are in.

G. Special/Other

1. **Chancellor’s Planning and Budget – *Elizabeth Cheek/Marianne Schoonover*** Committee has not met.

2. **Employee Advisory Committee to the Merit Board – Elizabeth Cheek**
The next meeting is January 29-30, 2026, at SUCSS in Urbana.
3. **Legislative Advisory – Ann Coward** – Committee has not met.
4. **Network Empowering Women Committee – Diane McIntyre** – Committee has not met.
5. **System Staff Advisory – Elizabeth Cheek** – Committee has not met.
6. **COLA Dean Search Committee – Dina Timmons** – (no report)

Note: A. Coward stated she was on the search committee for the Online & Extended Campus Executive Director position. Next week are the open forums for the two candidates.

IX. Old Business

- **Future Guests**

- o **February:** Mark Owens, Director of Facilities & Energy Management
- **CBIZ update request** from M. Schoonover. E. Cheek has not received an update. Once you receive a letter, you have 15 days to appeal to SUCSS. D. McIntyre questioned contacting SURS because of the 60-day deadline they told us they were going to meet. Employees were encouraged to wait for a response first, so you know what you are appealing. E. Cheek stated that according to SUCSS, HR can't downgrade employees' positions without meeting SUCSS criteria for a downgrade. T. Becker asked if a formal request to HR can be made by the Council asking about a status update since the 60-day response deadline has passed. E. Cheek stated she'll contact AVC Nick Wortman for an update.

X. New Business – (none)

XI. Non-Agenda Items – (none)

XII. Adjournment

Motion: M. Schoonover

Second: A. Coward