

EAC Report from 10/24-25 Meeting
Held at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago
Submitted by: Vicki A. Nelson

First, I apologize that I am unable to attend the Civil Service Council meetings, however I have no one to cover my office this semester on Wednesdays between 12:30 and 2:00 (or whenever my student gets here). I should be able to attend next semester!

The quarterly meeting was held at Northeastern Illinois University in Skokie. The NEIU President, Dr. Sharon K. Hahs, welcomed the group and educated us on the recent rankings of NEIU.

The SURS Update (part of which was contained in information emailed to you yesterday), included their opinion that some form of pension reform will definitely occur in January, before the new legislature is seated. Their hope, however, is that implementation will not happen immediately due to the major programmatic changes needed by SURS to accomplish any change. The least they hope for is implementation on July 1st; the most they hope for is implementation in January 2014. Lengthy discussion was also held on the proposed amendment on the ballot. As of this writing, we do not know the outcome of this amendment, but SURS felt it had a 50/50 chance of passing – could be devastating to the pension program in Illinois.

Systems Office representatives gave their reports concerning the following: Exemption rule proposal, employment limitations for annuitants, the Demonstration Project, an audit update, and the classification plan update.

Meetings for next year were set as follows: January 10-11 in Champaign-Urbana (systems office); April 18-19 at SIUC; July 18-19 at SIU School of Medicine; and October TBD – most likely Chicago State.

Committee members shared cost initiatives and/or employee financial relief from their respective campuses. I shared our Scholarship program, funded by the Education Assistance events. Northern Illinois University is interested in starting some sort of program to help employees during difficult times and was very interested to hear of this program. Cris Milliken (SIU School of Medicine rep) also noted the attempt at a Sick Leave Bank that we discussed when I was on the Council. She noted that this is becoming more needed as our employee population ages.