

# Employee Advisory Committee to the Merit Board Meeting

January 16-17, 2014

submitted by:

Anthony Trankel

2/5/14

The Employee Advisory Committee met on January 16-17 at the State Universities Civil Service System office in Urbana Illinois. After the meeting was called to order a new member, Jack Chavez from NEIU, was seated and joined in the reading of the committees "Charge and Obligation." Meetings from the Oct 2013 meeting were approved. Chair report was given which alluded to the issue of attendance of the Merit Board Members or lack of. Tom Morelock was asked to address this issue. There seems to be a regular absence of certain board members from attending schedule meetings even after confirming their attendance days before. The systems office is very frustrated by this. The last three regularly scheduled meetings had to be cancelled for lack of a quorum. There are 11 members on the board needing 6 in attendance for a quorum. This has become a serious issue since the Freedom of Information/Open Meeting Act came into effect. "Call-Ins" are not allowed, attendance must be in person at the meeting location, or via video conference at one of the two prearranged locations setup for the meeting (Carbondale and Chicago). Chair to formulate a letter to express the EAC Committees concerns to be presented to the systems office director to relay to the merit board at their next meeting on Feb 11<sup>th</sup>. I will be attending that meeting via video conference call setup in Morris Library.

Elections were held. Andy Small from Northern Illinois University was elected Committee Chair as the old chair stepped down due to increased workloads at her home campus. Other elections went as follows: Mike Pulley (SIU-E) as Vice Chair, Kim Kirchner (UIC-DSCC) as Secretary, and Denise Rothenbach (UIS) as Parliamentarian. Membership for standing committees (executive, legislative, and elections) were voted on. I was voted onto the Legislative Committee representing SIU Campuses.

Julie Benedict (EIU) was recognized by the new vice chair and presented a commemorative gavel for her service as chair. We discussed the roles and expectations of committee members. The standing committees met and elected their perspective officers.

Larry Curtis, the SURS representative gave a presentation on Public Act 98-599 Pension Reform 'In a Nutshell'. This can be found here:

<http://suaa.org/assets/pdf/2014/SURSMACpowerpoint.pdf>

The committee had another long discussion on following up on a bylaw change which would allow for campuses to use in addition to the old paper balloting, an electronic ballot option if they choose. This is all regards to increase voter turn out to better represent the constituents that the committee members represent.

The systems office reported on items that they have been doing or keeping an eye on. They reported on past and ongoing university audits (SIU-C audit was conducted late Jan 2014.) NIU's audit was finalized in Oct, UIUC's audit is in the draft stage awaiting final approval. We are told this is one to keep an eye out for. They reported on the "Demonstration Project" underway and announced that the Program Student Advisor was added to the program that currently includes Store Keepers, Police Dispatch, Cooks, and Call Center Attendant classifications. There are no new legal matters pending and only one pending review by the Merit Board on an EIU/WIU case.

There was discussion on concealed carry and medical marijuana, and how the different universities were approaching either of these and if we should address it as a committee. That discussion was tabled for a later date.

Final approval was determined on 2014 meeting dates and locations: April 10-11 @ EIU, July 17-18 @ UIS and OCT 15-16 at SIU-C to coincide with Council of Councils on Oct 17, 2014.