

Minutes of
SIUE SUAA CHAPTER BOARD MEETING
May 21, 2020, 12 noon – 1:30 p.m.
Meeting held via Zoom

The following items were discussed, and possible actions recommended:

1. Jo Gibson has been in contact with Coulson Elder Law and they are available to make a presentation to our next chapter's meeting. We discussed the logistics of using Zoom, invitations to members and the campus community and the possibility of recording the program for those who cannot attend. (Note: we subsequently decided to make this a special program, not a regular chapter meeting and it has been scheduled for September 16th via Zoom).
2. Jo Gibson gave a verbal report covering the Chapter Membership Report she had sent in advance. Our membership at the end of April remained steady since January with 456 members. Statewide membership remains below 15,000 and the loss of members poses a serious financial issue for the state office to maintain the level of advocacy for our members. SIUE New Employee Orientation is completely on-line; membership chair to follow up with SIUE HR contact who previously indicated she would either provide membership materials to or give us email addresses of new employee so that we can follow up with materials. Also discussed sending a targeted survey to lapsed chapter members to glean reasons for their non-renewal.
3. David Ault presented the Treasurer's Report (sent in advance). Our SIUE account balance remains steady at just under \$7,000.
4. Several board members stressed the importance of communications with our SIUE chapter, including the need for a newsletter with timely issues for members. There was additional discussion about communications and a newsletter (note: my notices are incomplete on this discussion).
5. We reviewed the draft proposal from Nobby Emmanuel for a SUAA Foundation Program to assist needy students who are in serious hardship with the pandemic and have not qualified for federal assistance. Nobby will revise the proposal and consult with the SUAA state office and the chair of the SUAA Foundation before taking the proposal to the SUAA Board of Directors.

6. We briefly discussed the importance of splitting the duties of the chapter's membership chair into three areas: communications, events, nitty gritty (managing membership lists, etc.). Jo Gibson has worn these hats for many years in serving our chapter.
7. Discussion regarding the "Fair Tax" constitutional amendment. We understand that the SUAA Board of Directors is likely to vote to support the amendment. (Note: Subsequently, the board did vote to support the amendment and SUAA President Guinn sent a mailing to membership with information and a flyer promoting passage.
8. John mentioned that he is co-chairing the SUAA nominations committee to develop a slate of candidates to be voted on at the SUAA meeting on September 30th.

Submitted by: John Jennetten, Chapter President