

## **UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE REGULAR MEETING**

**Zoom Meeting ID 924 7748 1076**

**August 19, 2021 – 9:00am**

### **Approved Minutes**

The regular meeting of the University Staff Senate was called to order at 9:03am on Thursday, August 19, 2021 via Zoom by President Mark Ferrell.

**Present:** Mark Ferrell, David Balai, Angie White, Cindy Cobetto, Denyse Anderson, Mike Hamil, Keith Becherer, Jan Caban, Anne Cavanaugh, Doug James, Shane Kessinger, Dusty Rhodes, Emily Skowron, Collin Van Meter, Anne Hunter (ex officio)

**Excused:** John Caupert, Anthony Fearon, Jared Loyd, Nicole Robinson

**Absent:** Darryl Cherry, Carolyn Jason

**Guests:** Kelly Thompson-Hess, Mike Pulley, Patricia Werner

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes for the July 1, 2021 meeting was approved as written.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment.

### **GUEST:**

Mike Pulley provided information on Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA). MFA is a secure authentication method that uses two factors for verification to increase security. MFA is being required for insurance purposes and because of increased threats from cyberattacks. Employees can sign up for MFA now at [www.siu.edu/its/mfa](http://www.siu.edu/its/mfa); everyone will have to be enrolled in September.

There are several types of authentication options available. The easiest option is the Microsoft Authenticator app, which works without Wi-Fi. Employees can receive a text or call to a mobile phone; office phone numbers cannot be used because most are on Teams, which requires authentication. Physical tokens will be available for free, but there is a \$30 charge if they need to be replaced.

The floor was opened to questions. Employees who do not complete the MFA process by the deadline will be unable to access their SIUE account until it is set up. Information Technology Services (ITS) is prepared to help out in person and by phone for those who do not have much access to technology. Multiple authentication options can be setup, i.e. you can have a token and also use a phone or the app. If an employee is only using a personal device for authentication it does not subject that device to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests because it does not put University data on your device.

### **REPORTS:**

The Public Relations Committee is setting up quarterly meetings.

The fall scholarship application period is open through September 7. The committee will review applications after that.

Anderson is working on filling the Alton vacancy for represented employees.

Applications are being accepted for the Chancellor position. There are town halls scheduled to update the community.

The School of Nursing Dean Search Committee is collecting applications. In September they will determine who will be interviewed.

The Policy Review and Homecoming Committee reports were posted to Teams and are attached.

There were no other updates.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Keith Becherer was nominated for President-Elect. He accepted the nomination and was elected by acclamation.

The Committee for Higher Administrator Performance Appraisals (CHAPA) was realigned as part of the operating paper revisions for the University Planning and Budget Council (UPBC). The Staff Senate now has two seats instead of four. Gretchen Fricke and Deb Talbot were put forward to be the Staff Senate representatives serving on that committee. There was no discussion, and the recommendation was approved unanimously.

Names are being accepted to serve as the Staff Senate representative on the Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Search Committee.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

No new issues were reported related to the work from home policy.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Hamil contacted Kevin Wathen in Military and Veteran Services about coordinating recognition of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11.

The need for an SIUE employee satisfaction survey was discussed. SIU System President Dan Mahony put together an employee satisfaction working group which recommended several items, however action was stalled due to COVID. There has been high turnover in many areas, and exit interviews do not necessarily generate productive feedback. A survey could also assist the new Chancellor. Ferrell suggested that the topic could be brought forward to the Chancellor, and a motion was made to move forward.

Pulley provided a report on the Statue Universities Civil Service Advisory Committee (SUCSAC) and shared a presentation made to the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA). Discussions about grant-funded positions having an extended probationary status are still happening, and the Senate has previously supported that those positions should be treated the same as other Civil Service employees. The University of Illinois is advocating for a protected class of Civil Service employees to exempt those working on research from bumping, however there is some concern about potential abuse because it

protects a person rather than a position. The Business Manager I and II positions were renamed, and the State Universities Civil Service System (SUCSS) is continuing to merge some classifications that are similar.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Announcements were reviewed as listed on the agenda.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

Becherer will work on making sure that reports are provided to the Staff Senate.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 am.

Submitted by Anne Hunter, University Governance

**STAFF SENATE MEETING**  
**Zoom Meeting ID: 924-7748-1076, Password: chimega**  
**August 19, 2021 – 9:00am**  
**AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT
- IV. MONTHLY REPORTS
  - a. Officers
  - b. Constituency Representatives
  - c. Staff Senate Committees
  - d. University Committees
  - e. Search Committees
  - f. Ex-Officio
- V. ACTION ITEMS
  - a. President-Elect Nominations
  - b. Committee for Higher Administrator Performance Appraisal (CHAPA) Appointment  
Realignment
  - c. Executive Director of Marketing and Communications Search Committee  
Appointment
- VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
  - a. Remote Work Policy
- VII. NEW BUSINESS
  - a. 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11
  - b. SIUE Employee Satisfaction Survey
  - c. Multi-Factor Authentication
- VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - a. Fundraising Committee Chair – John Caupert
  - b. Policy Review Committee Chair – Anne Hunter
  - c. Chancellor Search Website – [siue.edu/chancellor-search](http://siue.edu/chancellor-search)
  - d. Fall Scholarship Applications Open – August 1 through September 7
- IX. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting of the Staff Senate Executive Committee will be Thursday, September 16, 2021 at 9:00am  
Next regularly scheduled meeting will be Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 9:00am

# UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE

## COMMITTEE QUARTERLY REPORT

Committee Name	<b>Policy Review Committee</b>			
Report Submitted By	<b>Anne Hunter</b>			
Role/Position	<b>Chair</b>			
Quarter Submission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aug	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb	<input type="checkbox"/> May

*If additional explanations for any section are necessary, please attach additional sheets.*

What is the general charge of the committee on which you sit? (This can be repeated from report to report).

The Policy Review committee is responsible for researching and reviewing University policies that affect staff employed by the University. Its primary function is to provide staff input on policies created or modified by Human Resources.

### Major Activities or Actions Since the Last Report

The committee met to discuss priorities for the year and review current issues. The committee normally meets with Bob Thumith on the first Tuesday of every even numbered month, however the August meeting did not happen since there was not a Chair in place at that time. The next meeting with Human Resources is scheduled for October 5 unless something pressing comes up before that date.

### Activities or Actions Under Consideration or In Development

Communication from and with Human Resources continues to be a concern and will remain a priority for this year. Issues with Work-from-Home requests will continue to be monitored and reported on, including concerns about the form and notification process. As a long-term goal, the committee will also be reviewing existing Civil Service and Administrative Staff policies for consistency and identify any that need to be updated.

<b>Areas of Particular Concern or Interest Relevant to the Staff Senate</b>
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<p>While there have been many reports of work-from-home denials, Human Resources had only received 5 requests (which were approved) at the last meeting in June. There are several departments with people on a hybrid schedule, though, so it is unclear whether those were approved using the official process.</p>
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<p>As of the last meeting with HR in June, all but 2 of the Human Resources staff were reported to be working on ground. It continues to be difficult to get assistance from HR, though. Going to HR in person seems to be the best way of getting assistance at this time. They are supposed to have the lobby staffed again starting with the fall semester.</p>
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<b>Questions, Challenges, and Resources Needed</b>
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<p>It appears that most of the work-from-home denials have happened at a supervisor or Vice-Chancellor level, but the reasons for denial are not being communicated clearly. While some jobs are not able to be done from home, having it as an option for those that can is an important retention and recruitment tool. At a minimum there needs to be some assurance that requests are being considered fairly and equitably by supervisors and VCs, and employees need greater transparency and communication about the process and decision-making. Additionally, the link for the WFH form on the HR website is incorrect as they reverted to the paper form (this has been communicated but was still not fixed as of 8/18/21).</p>
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<b>Goals and Action Items</b>
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<p>Civil Service and Professional Staff policies will be compared and reviewed, time permitting. Communication issues with Human Resources will continue to be pursued and reported on.</p>
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<b>Other Notes/Comments</b>
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<p>Please share any issues you have encountered when communicating with Human Resources as we would like to compile a list of ongoing problems.</p>
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# UNIVERSITY STAFF SENATE

## COMMITTEE ACTION QUARTERLY REPORT

Committee Name	<b>Homecoming Committee</b>			
Report Submitted By	<b>Anne Cavanaugh</b>			
Role/Position	<b>Staff Senate Rep-CS Open Range</b>			
Quarter Submission	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aug	<input type="checkbox"/> Nov	<input type="checkbox"/> Feb	<input type="checkbox"/> May

What is the general charge of the committee on which you sit? (This can be repeated from report to report).

11/8/18 - MarComm requested Staff Senate Rep for their monthly Homecoming meetings. "We would like to include someone to get the perspective of the Staff and try to make Homecoming more inclusive for everyone, not just students and alumni."

### Major Activities or Actions Since the Last Quarterly Report

Homecoming Week is September 20 thru September 25. ([www.siue.edu/homecoming](http://www.siue.edu/homecoming), or email if you have questions: [homecoming@siue.edu](mailto:homecoming@siue.edu))

Fan Zone will take place (afternoon Saturday, September 25, through Men's Soccer Game that evening)

There is a tentative agenda being worked on as quickly as they can; things keep changing (imagine that!).

Tentative agenda includes: CAB Evening Event (trivia?) September 20

CAB Annual Chili Cookoff – September 22

Bonfire – September 22

Alumni Virtual Hall of Fame Event – September 23

Cougars Unleashed Homecoming Run – virtual (between Sep 18-25) and in-person (Sep 25, 9am; flyer attached)

Women's Volleyball (Sep 25)

Housing – Reunion (Sep 25)

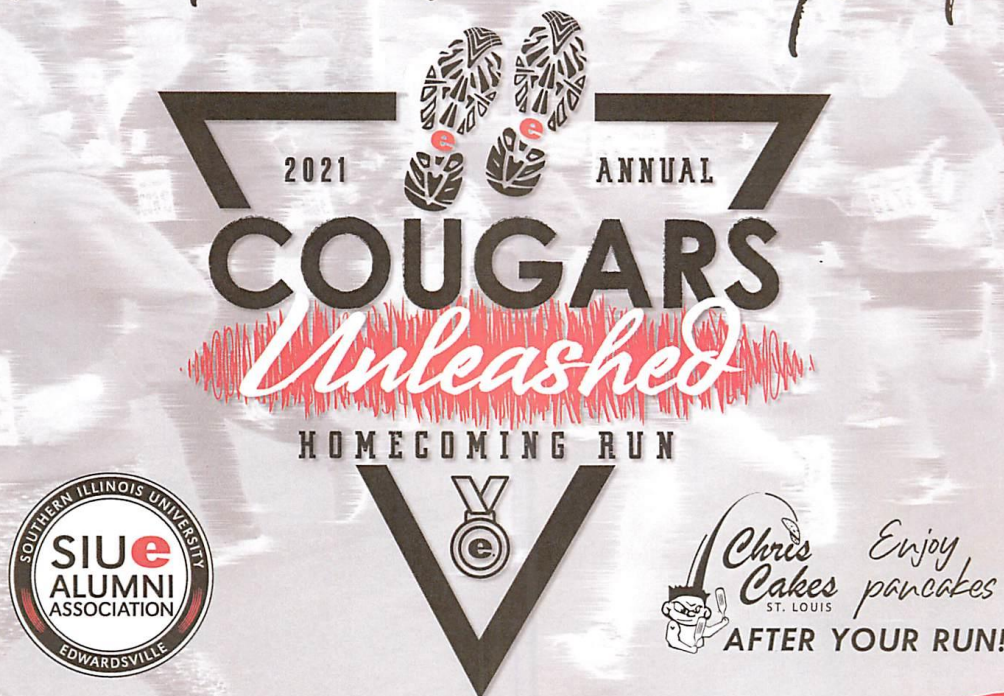
Men's Soccer Game (Sep 25)

Many other events scheduled throughout week, stay tuned.



# 5K, 10K and One-Mile Fun Run

## *In-Person or Virtual*



**SATURDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 25**

### **IN-PERSON RUN**

9 A.M. AT SIUE CAMPUS  
BIRGER HALL PARKING LOT

- ▶ \$30 for 5K | \$40 for 10K | \$5 for One-Mile
- ▶ \$5 for SIUE Students - Virtual and In-Person
- ▶ \$5 discount for SIUE alumni (5K and 10K)
- ▶ Run shirt included for 5K and 10K entries

Subject to change due to COVID regulations

*All Proceeds*  
benefit scholarships for SIUE students!

### **VIRTUAL RUN**

ANYWHERE | ANYTIME  
between the dates of  
September 18 - 25

- ▶ \$30 For 5K | \$30 for 10K
- ▶ \$5 for SIUE Students - Virtual and In-Person
- ▶ \$5 for One-Mile Fun Run
- ▶ \$5 discount for SIUE alumni (5K and 10K)
- ▶ Run shirt included for 5K and 10K entries

REGISTER EARLY! \$5 INCREASE STARTING AUGUST 26

➤➤➤➤ [runsignup.com/cougarsunleashed](https://runsignup.com/cougarsunleashed) ➤➤➤➤



**Thank you for the invitation to speak today as I am always happy to share my thoughts.**

**I have had (along with Matt, our contractual lobbyist) what you might say an unusual working experience these past 15 months. Mine was not any more special than anyone else in my profession. However, it did teach me to be even more vigilant and, in many instances, left me scratching my head.**

**Today, my focus will basically stay on the legislature, certain legislative bills, and significant activity at the Capitol (and maybe my views as seen from far away as I was never in the Capitol this session.)**

**I would like to start out by saying that pensions and healthcare took a back seat, or another way of saying it, pensions and healthcare continue to fly under the radar.**

**There was good news within the \$42.3 Billion budget for all of you. SURS, as with the other 4 State supported pensions, will be paid the certified amount for Fiscal Year 2022. In addition, the money owed to the State pensions will continue to be paid as legislated.**

**Another piece of the budget, which those who are working should be gleeful, is it permanently excludes the following amounts from 6% billing: meaning any earnings increase resulting from overload work performed in an academic year subsequent to an academic year in which the employer was unable to offer or allow to be conducted overload work due to an emergency declaration limiting such activities.**

**In February, Governor Pritzker outlined his budget proposal. This budget came on the heels of the failure of the Graduated income tax in November. And this proposal was while the state was still reeling from the measures in place to contain the pandemic.**

**In it, the Governor proposed a spending plan for the next fiscal year that incorporates \$700 million in spending cuts for state agencies. There was also \$900 million in revenue from the “closure of corporate loopholes.**

**The legislature was bracing for those cuts as they worked through the budget process. Two this happened to alleviate the pain of those cuts.**

1. **The American Rescue Plan Act infused billions of federal dollars into the state's budget.**
2. **The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) revised their budget estimates by an additional \$2 billion. This is an increase from their March forecast.**

**It certainly helps when you can get a windfall of a few billion dollars. It also helps that the federal government can print money.**

**The state budget includes an additional \$350 million in evidence-based funding for K-12 education. EBF sends more resources to Illinois' most under-resourced students. There were several lawmakers that indicated that this was a funding priority for them – possibly at the expense of cutting other programs.**

**The budget also included \$28 million more in MAP grants.**

**The adopted budget did contain over \$600 million in the closure of corporate loopholes.**

- **Cap Corporate Net Operating Loss Deductions**
- **Roll Back Accelerated Depreciation Deduction**
- **Align Domestic and Foreign-Source Dividend Deduction**
- **Freeze Phase Out of Corporate Franchise Tax.**

**Some have argued that these cuts were unnecessary with the increased revenue and federal support. They argue this is payback against businesses that opposed the graduated income tax.**

**The budget repays \$2 billion the state borrowed to make up for losses incurred from the pandemic. That alone saves the state \$100 million. The budget also prioritized paying down the backlog of the state's bills, which had reached \$17 billion a few years ago but now stands at \$3.2 billion.**

**Illinois appears to be in a far more stable place financially and a responsible place fiscally. That phrase is not uttered very often.**

**Another Wall Street credit-rating agency has issued a positive financial outlook for Illinois. Fitch Ratings Agency said the state is showing post-**

pandemic “fiscal resilience” and “sustained economic recovery.” The report follows Moody’s Investors Service and S&P Global Ratings also moving Illinois’ outlook to stable after near-junk status last year. You heard that right. Illinois is demonstrating fiscal resilience.

**Back to legislation relating to higher education –**

**Higher Ed Adjunct Professors –** At least 30 days before the start of a term and again 14 days before the beginning of a term, requires the governing board of a public university or community college district to notify and adjunct professor about the status of the class the adjunct professor was hired to teach. Also provides that the provisions do not apply if the Governor has declared a disaster due to a public health emergency or a natural disaster. Exempts collective bargaining agreements that are in effect on the effective date of the amendatory Act from the provisions.

I have heard from one person from a community college that this will not work in many instances.

My suggestion was that she contact her legislator. The bill currently awaits the Governor’s signature.

**Education –** elementary, secondary, and higher education employees will now be eligible for family and medical leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993. An employee who has been employed for at least 12 months and who has worked at least 1,000 hours in the previous 12-month period shall be eligible for family and medical leave.

The State Board of Higher Education released a strategic plan calling for a new funding formula to close graduation and retention gaps among low-income student of color. Evidence based funding will come into play for higher education like K-12 schools. This could change dramatically for some of our state supported universities such as Chicago State University.

So many people are interested in Ethics. While many things did not change, some things did.

**Ethics Reform**

**Last year there were several state lawmakers that were indicted by the federal government and other lawmakers and staff under investigation. The ComEd bribery scandal further underscored the need for the state to adopt stricter ethics standards. The legislature advanced bipartisan ethics legislation late in session. Some in the media called it hollow while supporters called it a first step.**

**Prohibits legislators from lobbying for six months after they leave office, or until the remainder of the two-year legislative term during which they leave, whichever comes first. This is a short time frame to address the revolving door issue of lawmakers lobbying right after they leave office.**

**Gives the Legislative Inspector General the power to initiate investigation of lawmakers without first receiving approval from the bipartisan Legislative Ethics Commission. This makes sense. Inspector General no longer needs permission from the very people she may investigate.**

**Creates a new State registration status for “consultants.” That’s a DC loophole where former lawmakers are hired as consultants. This is similar to lobbyist registration, but lobbyists are required to disclose more information about themselves on public documents filed with the State.**

**Prorates legislator pay for General Assembly members who retire in the middle of the month or the middle of session. Last year if you worked the first day of the month you received pay for the whole month. Again – makes sense. Quick history tangent – Decades ago lawmakers used to get paid for the whole year in January. If anyone retired, they would do so later in January.**

**Prohibits political fundraisers anywhere in the State of Illinois, virtual or in person, on a legislative session day or the day before session.**

**Prohibits sitting legislators or executive branch constitutional officers from engaging in compensated lobbying of the governing body of a municipality, county, or township, or an official thereof, on behalf of any lobbyist or lobbying entity that is registered to lobby the General Assembly or the executive branch. Notably, it does not prohibit a legislator from lobbying without compensation.**

**Nor does it prohibit lawmakers from serving in multiple offices at once. I believe there are 3 lawmakers who serve at state legislators and local mayors.**

**Other bills of interest – July 1 – the gas tax will increase approximately a half-cent per gallon. The gas tax was doubled July 1, 2019, and is indexed to automatic yearly increases tied to inflation.**

**Utility trailer fees had been raised from \$36 to \$118 last year. There was much ado about this significant raise. Lots of jokes were made on the House floor and serious questions as there did not seem to be a focus on lowering the fee. It seemed Chicago did not care. However, finally the problem was raised to possibly the “right” legislator – trailer fees were outrageous to those who were hired to do lawncare in Chicago along with others who do have boats, motorcycles, and recreational vehicles. The lowering of the fee was included in the budget – it was not a separate piece of legislation.**

**There is the Student-Athlete Endorsement Right Act – Student athletes are able to hire agents and sign endorsement deals starting July 1.**

**Besides Juneteenth which was celebrated on June 19<sup>th</sup>, the State has established November 8, 2022 as the 2022 General Election Day. The Primary Election day was changed for 2022.**

**There are other newsworthy items that occurred this session.**

**Illinois has a state pie (pumpkin), a state mineral (fluorite) and a state exercise (cycling). Now it has an official state microbe. By unanimous vote, *Penicillium Rubens* (strain NRRL 1951) was added to the [State Designation Act](#) during the latest legislative session.**

**Author Bill Bryson brilliantly described in "The Body" why *Penicillium Rubens* deserves the state distinction. It's a literal life saver. It begins with moldy fruit in a Peoria lab. "Every bit of penicillin made since that day is descended from that single random cantaloupe."**

**I think I should talk about what has been taking the attention away from Public Pensions and State Healthcare. And many other favored issues.**

**Black Caucus 4 pillars – those pillars address police reform, education, the economy and health and human services. The pillars were introduced during**

**Lame Duck session in January this year. All were signed into law by the Governor. I believe all pillars have been established.**

**The year started with quite a lot of activity. The Legislature convened a lame duck session in the second week of January. Four pillars of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus (ILBC) agenda were advanced during the brief session.**

- **Criminal Justice Reform**
- **Education & Workforce Development**
- **Economic Access and Equity**
- **Health Equity – This pillar was passed during the regular session this year.**

**The new General Assembly convened just after the lame duck session in January. Throughout the session most legislation was seen through the lens of equity.**

**This leads us right into the big elephant in the room – Redistricting. One of the headlines was**

**We knew the Republicans would bring a lawsuit, but did we expect the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund to bring one?**

**The Democrats used the American Community Survey and other sources for their decision to draw the maps. Evidently the Latino's believe this could hurt them. Latinos are Democrats. This provides a fraction among the Democrats.**

**I would also like to add that the Latinos are not a silent caucus. Rep. Delia Ramirez has been a chief sponsor of several important bills. She has had tremendous support in the House, especially for being what we know as a**

sophomore legislator. She has also attained the title of Assistant Majority Leader.

The Democrats drew a map that is most favorable to them. The map they adopted has seven districts where two GOP incumbents would run against each other based on their home addresses.

So many changes have occurred since Speaker Madigan took his place outside of the legislative arena. Chris Welch of Hillside became the Speaker of the House. He took the gavel from Speaker Madigan who was the longest-serving leader of a state legislative body in the country, having served as House speaker in 35 of the last 37 years and served in the House for 50 years. Madigan was ousted in part due to the ongoing ComEd bribery investigation that ensnared many of his close allies.

So, we have a brand-new Speaker of the House, a Senate President in his second year, a senate minority leader in his first year and a Governor in his 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Along with the change in leadership is typically a turnover in staff. A lot of the institutional knowledge has left government.

Legislators on both sides of the aisle were intrigued and hopeful of the new leadership.

Speaker Welch is well liked and well respected. He even visited the open house of a Republican lawmaker.

The budget bill which was several thousand pages long and containing detailed provisions for spending over \$40 billion was released the morning of the vote. The amended version, again several thousand pages, was introduced and voted on one hour later.

Nearly 7,000 bills, 6,782 to be exact, were introduced in the early weeks of the General Assembly. This reflects the pent-up demand for legislative action due to last year's abbreviated session. But the legislature did not change their ways up waiting till the last minute to adopt measures.

There ended up being 654 bills passed by both chambers during the regular session. Of those only 81 were passed prior to the last week of session. So, 573 bills were passed in the last week in addition to dealing with the budget. That is a lot of issues that really did not likely receive their proper vetting.



After session GOP leaders stated “New Leadership but same leadership tactics.”

Veto session will be the last two weeks of October – well 3 days each week. October 19, 20, 21. And October 26, 27, and 28. Don’t be surprised if part or most of Veto Session is cancelled.

I don’t want any of you to think that SUAA didn’t earn its keep this past year. A bill to reduce the 7-year 50% tuition wavier while brought to the forefront was never called. It would have reduced the 7-year wait to 4 years. This is not a good time for the ask.

There is a revolving door in the Chicago Public Schools Pension System along with a couple of other like institutions. The original bill included a clause that would no doubt prohibit pension systems from collecting dues from organizations such as SUAA. There was an amendment to the bill which eliminated our worries. However, once we were eliminated SUAA still supported the bill as the revolving needed to be closed. Originally sponsored by a Republican in the House, a Democrat picked it up in the Senate. It hit a home run in both houses as there were no NAY votes. This doesn’t happen all that much.

We worked to pass Senator Martwick’s Supplemental Defined Contribution Plan or 457(b) deferred compensation plan. While this is an opt out plan, it is designed to help Tier II employees further save for retirement. It goes into effect on June 30, 2023, for the duration of the employees SURS-covered employment.

As many of you know, SUAA worked to help pass the Graduated Income Tax. Unfortunately, it was defeated. This most likely will not come forward again well at least not in this decade. In fact, there was a bill introduced that would not allow it to come forward again. It ever made it to the surface, but it is there.

We worked with SURS as the pension system introduced a variety of enhancements to the Self-Managed Plan now called the SURS Retirement Savings Plan.

Term Limits for Leadership

**Both the House and the Senate have now adopted rules that have term limits for leaders of their chambers. This is a development that many lawmakers have sought for decades.**

**There are no term limits for members of the legislature but there does not necessarily need to be limits for rank and file members. The median years served for each caucus:**

- **Senate Dems 8.0 years**
- **Senate GOP 4.5 years**
- **House Dems 4.0 years**
- **House GOP 2.0 years**

**This turnover further underscores the need to continually educate your elected officials about your issues.**

#### **Reconvene General Assembly**

**The General Assembly met again two weeks after the passage of the budget. They adopted legislation for an elected school board. Also, it was fortuitous that they met because there were drafting errors in the budget. They needed to vote to fix those. Republicans argued that you are more likely to have those mistakes when the budget is introduced and voted on without proper time to review it.**

**Once item that did not get ratified was a long- anticipated Energy legislation. Many stakeholders including labor, enviro groups and utilities have been working on this for years. There appears to be a stalemate between Senate President Harmon and Governor Pritzker. The legislature will likely reconvene in the summer to address this.**

**If you are in Springfield, please visit us at the State Fair August 13 through 21<sup>st</sup>. SUAA will be in the Illinois Building.**

**I am not sure what will come our way between now and Veto Session, but I can assure you that Matt and I will be vigilant. When things get too quiet, we know something will pop up that will cause us to be fully engaged.**

**The SUAA Annual Meeting will be held in Normal, IL at the ISU Alumni Center in person on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Which leads me back to if you weren't at the Zoom SUAA Annual Meeting, be sure to catch Attorney Aaron Maduff's comments about the elimination of the pension protection clause in the Illinois Constitution. We will have it up soon on the SUAA website.**

**Again, thanks for inviting me!**