



MINUTES

**Claims Panel Meeting
of the Board of Trustees of the
State Universities Retirement System
Monday, November 14, 2022, 8:30 a.m.
State Universities Retirement System
Main Conference Room
1901 Fox Dr., Champaign, IL**

The meeting of the Claims Panel of the Board of Trustees of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) convened on Monday, November 14, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

The following Claims Panel members were present: Mr. Daniel Gaumer, Hearing Officer; Ms. Suzanne Mayer, Executive Director; and Mr. Richard Figueroa, SURS Board of Trustee member.

Others present: Ms. Bianca Green, General Counsel; Mr. Albert Lee, Associate General Counsel; Ms. Heather Kimmons, Associate General Counsel; Ms. Jennifer Bartell, Senior Claims Manager; Ms. Karen Nyi and Ms. Annette Ackerman, Executive Assistants; Ms. Shelley Marvin, Area Wide Reporting; Ms. Carolyn Clifford of the law firm of Ottosen, DiNolfo, Hasenbalg & Castaldo; Ms. Marian Baker, Claimant; Ms. Margaret Boehler, claimant; and Mr. Carl Draper of Feldman Wasser.

Claims Panel roll call attendance was taken. Hearing Officer Daniel Gaumer, present; Executive Director Suzanne Mayer, present; and Trustee Richard Figueroa, present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gaumer presented the open minutes from the Claims Panel Hearing of October 5, 2022.

Mr. Figueroa made the following motion:

- That the open minutes from the October 5, 2022, Claims Panel Hearing be approved as presented.

Ms. Mayer seconded the motion which passed via the roll call vote referenced below:

Mr. Gaumer	-	aye
Ms. Mayer	-	aye
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye

Mr. Gaumer presented the closed minutes from the Claims Panel Hearing of October 5, 2022, for approval.

Ms. Mayer made the following motion:

- That the closed minutes from the October 5, 2022 Claims Panel Hearing be approved as presented, and remain closed.

Trustee Figueroa seconded the motion which passed via the roll call vote referenced below:

Mr. Gaumer	-	aye
Ms. Mayer	-	aye
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye

PRESENTATION OF CLAIM – MARIAN BAKER

The claim of Ms. Marian Baker was called for hearing. Ms. Baker opted to appear via phone/Zoom at the hearing. Mr. Gaumer admitted documentary evidence into the record consisting of 253 pages. The admitted record includes the staff brief filed by SURS legal counsel in response to the Statement of Claim filed by claimant. Mr. Albert Lee provided a verbal summary of the issues to be addressed by the Claims Panel. The claimant presented her case after being sworn in by Ms. Marvin, the court reporter from Area Wide Reporting. Next, Ms. Jennifer Bartell was sworn in by Ms. Marvin, and provided testimony on behalf of SURS in support of the staff's position on the claim.

Upon the conclusion of the claim presentation, Hearing Officer Dan Gaumer closed the proofs of evidence accepted into the record in this case.

The Claims Panel members decided to hear both of the claims scheduled for this date before moving into closed session to deliberate on both cases.

PRESENTATION OF CLAIM – MARGARET BOEHLER

The claim of Ms. Margaret Bohler was called for hearing. Ms. Margaret Bohler and her attorney Mr. Carl Draper attended the meeting via phone/Zoom. Mr. Gaumer admitted documentary evidence into the record consisting of 111 pages. The admitted record includes the staff brief filed by SURS legal counsel in response to the Statement of Claim filed by the claimant. Ms. Heather Kimmons provided a verbal summary of the issues to be addressed by the Claims Panel. The claimant was sworn in by Ms. Marvin, the court reporter from Area Wide Reporting, and she presented her case via questioning by her attorney, Carl Draper. Ms. Jennifer Bartell was then sworn in by Ms. Marvin, and she provided testimony on behalf of SURS in support of the staff's position on the claim. Upon the conclusion of the claim presentation, Hearing Office Dan Gaumer closed the proofs of evidence accepted into the record in this case. Closing arguments were made by Mr. Draper on behalf of the claimant, and by Ms. Kimmons on behalf of SURS.

CLAIMS PANEL DELIBERATIONS

Ms. Mayer made a motion to move into closed session pursuant to §2(c)(4) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to consider the evidence and testimony presented in both of the cases presented in open session as is authorized by law. Trustee Figueroa seconded the motion which passed via the roll call vote referenced below:

Mr. Gaumer	-	aye
Ms. Mayer	-	aye
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye

All three Claims Panel members deliberated on the Baker and Boehler claims during closed session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon completion of the closed session deliberations, the Claims Panel returned to open session at approximately 12:10 pm.

Ms. Mayer then made the following motion:

- To affirm the staff decision, finding that Marian Baker has not proven by preponderance of the evidence that she is entitled to the relief sought and that a written decision of factual findings and conclusion be drafted by the Hearing Officer and signed by members of the Claims Panel voting in favor of the motion.

Trustee Figueroa seconded the motion which passed via the following roll call vote:

Mr. Gaumer	-	aye
Ms. Mayer	-	aye
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye

Ms. Mayer then made the following motion:

- To affirm the staff decision, finding that Margaret Boehler has not proven by preponderance of the evidence that she is entitled to the relief sought and that a written decision of factual findings and conclusion be drafted by the Hearing Officer and signed by the members of the Claims Panel voting in favor of the motion.

Trustee Figueroa seconded the motion which passed via the following roll call vote:

Mr. Gaumer - aye
Ms. Mayer - aye
Trustee Figueroa - aye

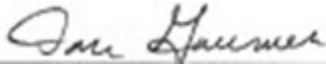
PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There was no further business before the Claims Panel and Trustee Figueroa moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mayer and passed via the roll call vote below:

Mr. Gaumer - aye
Ms. Mayer - aye
Trustee Figueroa - aye

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel L. Gaumer
Hearing Officer

dlg:aa