



MINUTES

**Quarterly Meeting of the Board of Trustees
(Benefits, Finance & Personnel)
of the Board of Trustees of the
State Universities Retirement System
Thursday, October 20, 2022, 2:50 a.m.
State Universities Retirement System
Via remote access only due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns**

The meeting on October 20, 2022, was conducted via video conference pursuant to the Governor's COVID-19 Executive Order dated October 17, 2022, and subsection (e) of Section 7 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Chair John Atkinson of the SURS Board of Trustees determined that a full, in-person meeting was not practical nor prudent due to the ongoing COVID-19 disaster concerns.

The following trustees were present: Mr. Richard Figueroa; Ms. Jamie-Clare Flaherty; Dr. Fred Giertz; Mr. John Lyons; Mr. Scott Hendrie; Dr. Steven Rock; Mr. Collin Van Meter; and Mr. Mitch Vogel.

Others present: Ms. Suzanne Mayer, Executive Director; Mr. Douglas Wesley, Chief Investment Officer (CIO); Ms. Ellen Hung, Deputy CIO; Ms. Tara Myers, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Bianca Green, General Counsel; Ms. Heather Kimmons, Associate Legal Counsel; Ms. Kelly Valle, Investments Officer; Ms. Kristen Houch, Director of Legislative and Stakeholder Relations; Ms. Alicia Route, Legislative Analyst; Ms. Nichole Hemming, Chief Human Resources Officer; Mr. Albert Lee, Associate General Counsel; Ms. Jackie Hohn, Chief Internal Auditor; Mr. Jefferey Saiger, Chief Technology Officer; Ms. Kelly Carson and Ms. Chelsea McCarty, Executive Assistants; and Mr. Michael Calabrese of Foley.

Board of trustees roll call attendance was taken. Trustee Atkinson, absent; Trustee Bodnaruk, absent; Trustee Figueroa, present; Trustee Flaherty, present; Trustee Giertz, present; Trustee Hendrie, present; Trustee Lyons, present; Trustee Rock, present; Trustee Van Meter, present; and Trustee Vogel, present.

RECOGNITION OF TRUSTEE WEISBENNER'S SERVICE

Following the death of Trustee Scott Weisbenner, Trustee Van Meter, Ms. Suzanne Mayer and Mr. Douglas Wesley took a moment to recognize him and to extend sincere condolences on behalf of all the trustees and SURS staff. Trustee Van Meter presented a plaque to Jia Xing, Trustee Weisbenner's spouse, in his honor and shared a formal declaration for Trustee Weisbenner. Suzanne Mayer discussed some of his accomplishments and extended her thanks for his service and for the expertise he brought to SURS. Jia Xing spoke on behalf of her husband, and she shared how passionate he was when it came to serving on the SURS Board of Trustees.

There will be a memorial service held at the Gies College of Business on November 19, 2022.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Van Meter presented the minutes from the board of trustee meetings of September 16, 2022.

Trustee Hendrie made the following motion:

- That the minutes from the September 16, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting be approved as presented.

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

Trustee Atkinson	-	absent
Trustee Bodnaruk	-	absent
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye
Trustee Flaherty	-	aye
Trustee Giertz	-	aye
Trustee Hendrie	-	aye
Trustee Lyons	-	aye
Trustee Rock	-	aye
Trustee Van Meter	-	aye
Trustee Vogel	-	aye

APPROVAL OF CLOSED MINUTES

Trustee Van Meter presented the closed minutes from the board of trustee meeting of September 16, 2022.

Trustee Giertz made the following motion:

- That the minutes from the September 16, 2022 Board of Trustees meeting be approved as presented and remain closed.

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

Trustee Atkinson	-	absent
Trustee Bodnaruk	-	absent
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye
Trustee Flaherty	-	aye
Trustee Giertz	-	aye
Trustee Hendrie	-	aye
Trustee Lyons	-	aye
Trustee Rock	-	aye
Trustee Van Meter	-	aye

Trustee Vogel - aye

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Trustee Van Meter did not have a formal chairperson's report.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Suzanne Mayer briefly updated the board regarding a stakeholder group known as SURS Member Advisory Committee (SURSMAC) that may be dissolving soon. Several SURS staff members would typically attend these meetings to provide SURS-related updates to the SURSMAC members. SURS has now created new bi-annual stakeholder meetings which were discussed during the September 2022 board meeting. These new stakeholder meetings will allow all members to receive SURS updates. She concluded by thanking all the members that have served on SURSMAC throughout the years.

BOARD VACANCY DISCUSSION

Ms. Suzanne Mayer discussed the press release regarding the vacancy on the board of trustees that will need to be filled due to the passing of Trustee Weisbenner. She explained the process that will be used to fill the open position by the elected trustees. The press release will be issued on October 21, 2022, following the board meeting.

A copy of the press release titled "News Release – Board vacancy" is incorporated as part of these minutes as [Exhibit 1](#).

BOARD TRAVEL

Trustee Giertz made the following motion:

- That the board of trustees travel to attend conferences or trainings listed on the October 2022 list of upcoming training opportunities is approved and that all resulting allowable expenses with the SURS travel policy are reimbursed.

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

Trustee Atkinson	-	absent
Trustee Bodnaruk	-	absent
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye
Trustee Flaherty	-	aye
Trustee Giertz	-	aye
Trustee Hendrie	-	aye
Trustee Lyons	-	aye
Trustee Rock	-	aye
Trustee Van Meter	-	aye
Trustee Vogel	-	aye

A copy of the memorandums titled “Board Training Requirements” and “October 2022 Upcoming Training Opportunity List” are incorporated in these minutes as [Exhibit 2](#) and [Exhibit 3](#).

REVIEW OF COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Administration Committee

Trustee Van Meter presented the following motion which passed via the roll call vote listed below:

- That based on the recommendation of Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company, the amount of \$2,129,109,000 be certified for fiscal year 2024 as the proposed state contribution for SURS.

Trustee Atkinson	-	absent
Trustee Bodnaruk	-	absent
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye
Trustee Flaherty	-	aye
Trustee Giertz	-	aye
Trustee Hendrie	-	aye
Trustee Lyons	-	aye
Trustee Rock	-	aye
Trustee Van Meter	-	aye
Trustee Vogel	-	aye

Trustee Van Meter presented the following motion which passed via the roll call vote listed below:

- That based on the recommendation of SURS staff, the amount of \$5,120,262 be certified for fiscal year 2024 to the Community College Health Insurance Security Fund.

Trustee Atkinson	-	absent
Trustee Bodnaruk	-	absent
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye
Trustee Flaherty	-	aye
Trustee Giertz	-	aye
Trustee Hendrie	-	aye
Trustee Lyons	-	aye
Trustee Rock	-	aye
Trustee Van Meter	-	aye
Trustee Vogel	-	aye

Trustee Van Meter presented the following motion which passed via the roll call vote listed below:

- That based on the recommendation of Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company, the Employer Normal Cost Rate of 12.53% be approved for fiscal year 2024.

Trustee Atkinson	-	absent
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Trustee Bodnaruk	-	absent
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye
Trustee Flaherty	-	aye
Trustee Giertz	-	aye
Trustee Hendrie	-	aye
Trustee Lyons	-	aye
Trustee Rock	-	aye
Trustee Van Meter	-	aye
Trustee Vogel	-	aye

Audit & Risk Committee

Trustee Giertz presented the following motion which passed via the roll call vote listed below:

- That pursuant to section 40 ILCS 5/1-135, general counsel be directed to report the external fraud matter discussed in closed session to the appropriate state’s attorney for further investigation.

Trustee Atkinson	-	absent
Trustee Bodnaruk	-	absent
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye
Trustee Flaherty	-	aye
Trustee Giertz	-	aye
Trustee Hendrie	-	aye
Trustee Lyons	-	aye
Trustee Rock	-	aye
Trustee Van Meter	-	aye
Trustee Vogel	-	aye

REPORT OF INVESTMENT COMMITTEE ACTION

Trustee Hendrie reported on the specific action items taken by the Investment Committee during the October 20, 2022 Investment Committee meeting. These items are referenced in greater detail in the Investment Committee meeting minutes of October 20, 2022.

PERSONNEL ITEMS

There were no personnel matters brought before the board.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments presented to the SURS Board of Trustees.

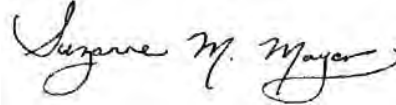
TRUSTEE COMMENT

There were no trustee comments presented to the SURS Board of Trustees.

There was no further business brought before the board and Trustee Rock moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Trustee Giertz which passed via the following roll call vote:

Trustee Atkinson	-	absent
Trustee Bodnaruk	-	absent
Trustee Figueroa	-	aye
Trustee Flaherty	-	aye
Trustee Giertz	-	aye
Trustee Hendrie	-	aye
Trustee Lyons	-	aye
Trustee Rock	-	aye
Trustee Van Meter	-	aye
Trustee Vogel	-	aye

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Suzanne M. Mayer".

Ms. Suzanne M. Mayer
Executive Director and Secretary, Board of Trustees

SMM:cm



News Release

Oct. 21, 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Beth Spencer, Communications Manager - 217.378.7512

SURS Announces Active-Member Board Vacancy

State Universities Retirement System (SURS) Executive Director Suzanne Mayer today announced a vacancy on the SURS Board of Trustees. The elected active-member seat will be filled by a majority vote of the other five elected trustees.

SURS active members who are interested in being considered for the open seat on the board should request an application from Kelly Carson at kcarson@surs.org. Applications are due by Nov. 4, 2022, at close of business (4:30 p.m. CST). Candidates will be required to submit a resume with their application. Elected trustees will review all applications and may interview qualified candidates.

The vacancy is the result of the death of elected Trustee Scott Weisbenner on Sept. 29. Trustee Weisbenner's term began on July 15, 2021. The candidate that is selected will serve until the next trustee election in May 2024.

The Illinois Pension Code [40 ILCS 5/15-159(e)] directs the elected members of the board to fill any unexpired term of a fellow elected trustee by a majority vote.

The SURS Board of Trustees consists of 11 trustees including four elected active members, two elected annuitants, and five members appointed by the governor, of which one is the appointed chair of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Trustees serve six-year terms.

The board meets at least quarterly, with additional committee meetings scheduled throughout the year. Trustees also are required to meet certain annual ethics, legislative and fiduciary training obligations, as well as complete eight hours of investments and public pension administration education. Additional board information can be found at <http://surs.org/about-surs>.

SURS encourages all active members to consider serving on the board of trustees.

The State Universities Retirement System of Illinois serves over 240,000 members and 61 employers and oversees \$28.1 billion in defined benefit and defined contribution plan assets. The System provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits to state university and community college faculty and staff.



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www.surs.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Ms. Suzanne Mayer
Executive Director

RE: Board Training Requirements and Travel Approval

DATE: October 17, 2022

In order to assist Trustees in obtaining the 8 hours of annual training required by Public Act 96-0006, staff has developed the attached list of upcoming training opportunities. This list will be updated and provided to the Trustees with the regular meeting materials.

Public Act 96-0006 also requires that all Board travel be approved by a majority of Trustees in order to qualify for reimbursement of expenses in accordance with the Board's Travel Approval and Expense Reimbursement Policy. Each Trustee is eligible to be reimbursed for two out-of-state trips, each fiscal year, for educational purposes. SURS is a voting member of the Council of Institutional Investors ("CII"). In March of 2013, the SURS travel policy was amended, to provide that attendance at the semi-annual meetings of CII not be included in the two-per-year limit for board member attendance at educational conferences, since such conferences are not educational meetings, rather, are working meetings of an organization of which SURS is a member.

Staff Recommends that the following motions be approved at this time:

- **That the Board of Trustees travel to attend conferences or trainings listed on the October 2022 list of Upcoming Training Opportunities be approved and that all resulting allowable expenses consistent with SURS travel policy be reimbursed.**



State Universities Retirement System
 Schedule of
Upcoming Training Opportunities
 As of October 2022

SURS Board/Committee Meetings for 2022

SURS Board and Committee Meetings	December 8-9, 2022
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Title:	RI USA 2022
Subject Matter:	Various Investment Topics
Sponsor:	Responsible Investor
Date:	December 6-7, 2022
Location:	Convvene 117, W 46 th Street, New York
Registration Fee:	TBD

Council of Institutional Investors

Title:	2023 Spring Conference
Subject Matter:	Corporate Governance Issues
Sponsor:	Council of Institutional Investors
Date:	March 6-8, 2023
Location:	Washington, DC – Mandarin Oriental Hotel
Registration Fee:	Complimentary for members

✱ = New Item