



MINUTES

**Claims Panel Meeting
of the Board of Trustees of the
State Universities Retirement System
Monday, February 12, 2024, 12:30 pm.
State Universities Retirement System
Main Conference Room
1901 Fox Dr., Champaign, IL
(Hearing Officer Gaumer)**

The meeting of the Claims Panel of the Board of Trustees of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) convened on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 12:30 pm.

The following Claims Panel members were present: Mr. Daniel Gaumer, Hearing Officer; Ms. Carolyn Clifford, Hearing Officer (assigned to hear cases in a different meeting); Ms. Suzanne Mayer, SURS 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, Director of Benefits Processing; Ms. Karen Nyi (Zoom) and Ms. Annette Ackerman, Executive Assistants; Ms. Janet Cummings, Area Wide Reporting; Mr. Patrick Sullivan of the law firm Featherstun, Gaumer, Stocks, Flynn & Eck LLP; Ms. Angalia Bianca, (Zoom) Claimant; and Mr. Ed Mullens, (Zoom) Attorney for the Claimant.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gaumer presented the open session minutes from the Claims Panel Hearing of November 13, 2023.

Ms. Mayer made the following motion:

That the open session minutes from the November 13, 2023, Claims Panel Hearing be approved as presented.

Trustee Figueroa 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 November 13, 2023, for approval to remain closed.

Ms. Mayer made the following motion:

That the closed session minutes from the November 13, 2023, 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 – DOUGLAS CHAPMAN

The claim of Mr. Douglas Chapman was called for hearing. Mr. Dan Gaumer served as the assigned Hearing Officer. SURS staff was represented by Associate General Counsel Albert Lee. Mr. Chapman chose to waive his right to appearing at the hearing (both in person and remotely). Mr. Gaumer admitted 195 pages of documentary evidence into evidence. Mr. Albert Lee provided a verbal summary of the issues to be addressed by the Claims Panel. Ms. Jennifer Bartell was sworn in by the court reporter prior to testifying on behalf of SURS staff.

At the conclusion of the claim presentation, Hearing Officer Dan Gaumer closed the evidentiary proofs.

PRESENTATION OF CLAIM – ANGALIA BIANCA

The claim of Ms. Angalia Bianca was called for hearing. Mr. Gaumer served as the assigned Hearing Officer. SURS staff was represented by General Counsel Bianca Green. Ms. Angalia Bianca, Claimant, and Mr. Ed Mullens, attorney for the Claimant appeared remotely, via Zoom. Mr. Gaumer admitted all 345 pages of documents into evidence. Ms. Bianca Green provided a verbal summary of the issues to be addressed by the Claims Panel. Ms. Angalia Bianca was sworn in by the court reporter and then presented her case. Ms. Green cross examined the Claimant.

Upon the conclusion of the claim presentation, Hearing Officer Gaumer closed the evidentiary proofs.

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 open session in the cases. Trustee Figueroa seconded the motion which passed via the roll call vote referenced below:

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

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon completion of the closed session deliberations, the Claims Panel returned to open session, at approximately 2:35 pm.

Ms. Mayer then made the following motion pertaining to the claim for Mr. Douglas Chapman:

To affirm the staff decision, finding that Douglas Chapman has not proven by preponderance of the evidence that he is entitled to the relief sought, and that a written decision of factual findings and conclusions 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

Ms. Mayer then made the following motion pertaining to the claim for Ms. Angalia Bianca:

To affirm the staff decision, finding that Angalia Bianca 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 conclusions 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

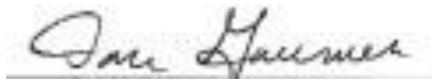
There was no public comment.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel L. Gaumer
Hearing Officer

dlg:aa