



## MINUTES

**Claims Panel Meeting  
of the Board of Trustees of the  
State Universities Retirement System  
Monday, May 6, 2024, 8:30 am.  
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, May 6, 2024, at 8:30 am.

The following Claims Panel members were present: Mr. Daniel Gaumer, Hearing Officer; Ms. Carolyn Clifford, Hearing Officer (via Zoom); and Ms. Suzanne Mayer, SURS Executive Director.

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. Cara Peeler, SURS Manager Retirement Team; and Ms. Rachel Wahlfeldt, SURS Manager PREP Team.

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

## PRESENTATION OF CLAIM – MEERA KOMARRAJU

The claim of Ms. Meera Komarraju was called for hearing. Mr. Dan Gaumer served as the assigned Hearing Officer. SURS staff was represented by Associate General Counsel Albert Lee. Ms. Meera Komarraju appeared remotely, via Zoom. Mr. Gaumer admitted 156 pages of documents into evidence. Mr. Albert Lee provided a verbal summary of the issues to be addressed by the Claims Panel. Ms. Meera Komarraju was sworn in by the court reporter and then presented her case. Mr. Lee cross examined the Claimant. 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.

**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. Hearing Officer, Mr. Dan Gaumer seconded the motion which passed via the roll call vote referenced below:

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

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Upon completion of the closed session deliberations, the Claims Panel returned to open session, at approximately 9:45 am.

Ms. Mayer then made the following motion pertaining to the claim for Ms. Meera Komarraju:

To affirm the staff decision, finding that Meera Komarraju 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.

Mr. Gaumer seconded the motion, which passed via the following roll call vote:

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

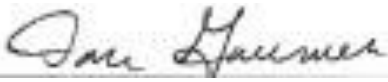
There was no public comment.

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 Mr. Gaumer and passed via the following roll call vote:

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,



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Daniel L. Gaumer  
Hearing Officer

dlg:aa