

University Senates Conference  
***Finance, Budget, & Benefits Committee***  
**Minutes**

DATE: Tuesday, January 14, 2025

PLACE: University of Illinois Chicago, College of Pharmacy Building, Room 145  
University of Illinois Springfield, Brookens Library, Room 180G  
I Hotel & Conference Center, Excellence Room

PRESENT: Campbell, Danziger, Erricolo (online), Leff, Lyons

ABSENT: Dunning

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m. by Professor Campbell.

II. Public Comment

None

III. Approval of minutes from

a. December 20, 2024

A motion was made by Professor Leff and seconded by Professor Lyons to approve the minutes from December 20, 2024. No discussion. The minutes were approved with a voice vote by members in-person and roll call vote by members attending online.

Yes: Campbell, Erricolo (online), Leff, Lyons

No: None

Abstain: Danziger

IV. Today's Business

a. Review of The Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82)

FBBC reviewed the current status of The Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82), which addresses the Windfall Elimination Provision, and the Government Pension Offset. According to the Social Security Administration (SSA), the Act would eliminate the reduction of Social Security benefits for individuals entitled to public pensions from work not covered by Social Security. This change will directly impact System employees who have paid into Social Security. Further discussion on this agenda item was deemed unnecessary, and the topic will be removed from future agendas. For more details, refer to the SSA's official statement:  
<https://www.ssa.gov/benefits/retirement/social-security-fairness-act.html>.

b. Discuss SURS Tier 2 and Social Security Safe Harbor Act

FBBC revisited the status of SURS Tier 2 and the Social Security Safe Harbor Act. Since the last meeting, no new legislation has been proposed to address a Tier 2 fix. The committee will continue to monitor legislative developments on this matter and revisit the topic at the February meeting.

V. New Business

a. Presentation at the BOT Meeting on May 22

FBBC discussed the possibility of presenting at the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting scheduled on May 22 in Urbana. Committee members recognized the importance of presenting to the BOT, though availability for representation on that specific date remains uncertain. The committee outlined a potential presentation structure, which would include: (1) an overview of the FBBC's mission and role within the system and on each campus, (2) key issues addressed by the committee over the past 12-24 months such as: SURS Tier 2; SB3965, the Adequate and Equitable Funding Formula for Public Universities Act; Faculty and staff salaries and compensation; Balancing the financial priorities of the system with those of the three campuses; Deferred maintenance costs, and (3) a call to the BOT to advocate for legislative and stakeholder engagement on issues of critical importance.

b. Topics for Updates and Future Speakers

FBBC identified two topics for updates and future speaker engagements:

- i. Compensation Comparisons: An analysis of the current state of faculty, staff, and student compensation across the three campuses (UIUC, UIC, and UIS) and in comparison, to peer institutions.
- ii. Childcare and Caregiving Challenges: Examination of challenges faced by employees regarding access to and the costs of childcare and caregiving.

VI. Old Business – Action Items

None

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Information for the minutes provided by Professor Campbell and Professor Lyons.

David Perryn  
USC Administration