

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee
(Final; Information)

SUR.23.01 Report on SURSMAC* Meeting, November 22, 2022

The SURSMAC Annual Meeting was held electronically at a time when a number of significant changes were being proposed for the organization. Instead of the usual report to SURSMAC by the SURS staff on the current status of SURS, this report was part of a stakeholder presentation open to all SURS members held prior to the start of the SURSMAC meeting.

The only item on the agenda for the SURSMAC Annual Meeting was a proposal by Chair Melanie Lewis, Parkland College, to dissolve SURSMAC. She had indicated in an email announcing the meeting that:

“With regards to the advisory role to SURS, the Executive Committee feels that while many of the topics covered at SURSMAC meetings have inspired great discussion and conversation among its membership, SURSMAC has not provided any sort of recommendations or action plans directly to SURS. It is our opinion that in the future, discussion items that may impact current or future members and retirees should be routed through SUAA who does have the ability to fulfill advocacy needs as well as participate in the legislative process when needed.”

The proposal had been approved by the SURSMAC Executive Committee whose members were:

- Melanie Lewis, Parkland College (Chair)
- Linda Brookhart, Executive Director, SUAA (Vice Chair)
- Mary Nippe, Southern Illinois University Carbondale (Member)
- Judy Connelly, Joliet Junior College (Member)
- Liz Guess, Northern Illinois University (Member)

There was an extensive discussion of this proposal. Though it was agreed that SURSMAC had not served effectively as an advisory committee in recent years, there was disagreement that the solution would be to dissolve the group. A motion to postpone the proposal was made, seconded, and passed. This effectively was the end of the meeting.

It is not clear what the next actions will be with regard to SURSMAC. The SURS administration removed the SURSMAC link from the SURS website shortly after the adjournment of the meeting even though SURSMAC had not been dissolved. The SURSMAC representatives from both the UIUC and UIC campuses have been discussing what the next steps might be.

Respectfully Submitted, H.F. (Bill) Williamson, John Kindt, UIUC Senate Representatives
Our thanks to Martha Menchaca and Tracey Seneca, UIC SURSMAC Representatives,
upon whose report this document is based.

* SURSMAC is the State Universities Retirement System Members Advisory Committee to the SURS Board of Trustees. Members are faculty and staff representing the various institutions and agencies affected by SURS: public universities, community colleges, state surveys, and retiree organizations. It normally meets twice a year in Champaign, Illinois.