



The Sentinel

Voice of the ECC Faculty Association

Local 3791/IFT www.eccfaculty.org

April 2008

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From the President



Change is in the air! It's everywhere around the College, including the ECCFA. Join me in extending congratulations to our newly elected committee members and Faculty Senators. We also owe appreciation to our retiring committee members and Senators for the many hours they have expended on behalf of the ECCFA. Finally, take a minute to thank everyone who was willing to have

his/her name placed on the ballot. Assuming a leadership role in the ECCFA is not only an honor and a privilege, but it is also a right and a responsibility that few people are willing to assume.

Congratulations to Sarah Dye for accepting the challenge of running for ECCFA President. I pledge to work with Sarah as she transitions into new her role. I have every confidence that she will represent us with professionalism and skill.

And . . . special thanks to our Election Committee, which includes Bill Demaree, Bill Kolton, Mary Peterhans, and Curt Perrin.

This issue of the *Sentinel* marks my final presidential message. Serving as your ECCFA President for the past four years has indeed been very rewarding, as well as a great learning experience.

Certainly, we have seen much change during the past four years within our Association. Yet one thing remains the same — **ECCFA UNITY**. We remain strong when we remain unified. This phrase doesn't mean we all think or act alike; in fact, we wouldn't be a strong organization if that were the case. However, this saying does mean that we remain unified in our commitment to achieve the goals of our Association. We all want the best outcome for our students as well as for our Association and the College.

I will always treasure my experiences and memories while serving as ECCFA President. Thank you

for this wonderful opportunity to represent you

In unity,

Linda

Good Grievance

The Maintenance of Health Benefits grievance (#2007-2008-1) is now settled. ECCFA members involved in the grievance will receive a check in the amounts they each self-reported to the Grievance Committee. The committee in turn reported that information to Dr. Spahr who arranged for the repayments. The checks are cut separately from members' biweekly pay checks. Should affected members not receive the check within two weeks, please let a committee member know and we will follow up. One member reported receiving the check at home this past Monday

The college agreed that if additional ECCFA members come forward, no later than June 30, 2008, with the same kind of HMO costs and provide their own receipts to verify the expenses to the HR Department, then the administration will repay those members too.

Thank you for submitting information to the Grievance Committee and helping the committee to protect members' rights and settle this issue.

In unity,

Sarah Dye, Co-Chair
Sue Ford, Co-Chair
Karen Friedberg
Linda McEwan
Roger Ramey
Howard Russo

SUAA Holds Spring Program on Retirement Plans

Tom Youngren

Your Elgin Chapter of the State University Annuity Association (SUAA) invites all ECC faculty, staff and administrators, whether members or not, to attend its spring general meeting at noon until 1:30 p.m. in the dining room of the University and Business Center on Friday, May 9. A buffet luncheon at a cost of \$10.00, payable at the door, will be followed by a program on "Retirement Realities" presented by Molly Hofer of the U of I Extension Service and a short business meeting to receive and act on a report from our nominating committee.

This program **is not** financial but rather on the personal fulfillment aspects of retirement. To attend the meeting, please *RSVP* by April 30 to Bobbi Glab in the ECC Foundation Office at 847 214-7377 or bglab@elgin.edu President David Sam and Paul Dawson as Foundation Interim Director have been invited to join us. The ECC Foundation cosponsors this event.

Why this program? We all owe it to ourselves and our loved ones to plan, not only for the financial but also personal development realities of retirement, even while struggling to keep up at early and midpoints in our careers. Those of us who have retired and experienced those frantic last few work years trying to maximize annual income found even less time to review whatever dreams we had of taking time to grow in new ways. Retirees among us are traveling, playing a bit, practicing arts and crafts, building businesses, but also giving back to loved ones in child and elder care as well as volunteering in many wonderful ways: sharing skills and knowledge, helping rebuild after

disasters, fighting in the political process and against poverty. We want you to enjoy the same options and opportunities.

Our currently solid and hard earned pension plans and the freedom of choice to use the time they provide are under attack. The Ryan and Rezko trials, paralysis in Springfield, and the “recession” remind us of how fragile our “secure” future can be. TRS fought off predatory fund managers. SURS was not so threatened in the last round of corruption because lower on the shark hit list and very well managed by Executive Director Dan Slack and the SURS Board. The redesigned SURS website and counselors are your best sources for personalized information about financial decisions and fund security. Click on www.surs.org and look it over. All our plan options are well managed, but you need to make the right choices. Especially recommended is a monthly visit to read the *SURS Advocate*. The March issue includes an excellent explanation by Dan of the critical need for full funding of the state share in this and in the next few fiscal years.

Those in the Traditional Plan with defined benefits enjoy provisions which make our pensions such a big factor in choosing public over higher salaries in private sector employment, i.e. state pension income is currently exempt from Illinois income tax and increases by a 3% annual cost of living allowance. These factors as well as under funding or controlling fund investment and health insurance make all state pension funds very tempting political targets. A coalition of Illinois employee unions and retiree associations is working hard in Springfield on your behalf. Both membership and lobbying separately through PICs are legitimate and vital activities. This is why the state office of SUAA launched a major recruiting effort with university and community college employees over the age of 40. Please consider acting on that appeal. For more information join us May 9 or visit www.suaa.org.

Senator Hallpike Served ECC Faculty Well Dennis Lynch

Clark Hallpike finishes his tenure on the Faculty Senate this month, and ECCFA will be the lesser without his presence there.

On the Senate, Clark was a voice of reason and restraint, and was a model of dignity and decorum. Clark refused to buy into the “Us versus Them” mentality that too often holds sway in union/management conflicts. He refused to see all administrators as evil or villainous.

When some of us fellow senators would use words like “dumb” or “stupid” to describe administrators or their ideas, Clark would have the courage to speak up and to remind us that such language is not only demeaning but also unprofessional.

What Clark showed is that it is indeed possible to disagree with certain acts of administrators—or even to disagree with fellow union members--without condemning them as individuals or disrespecting them as human beings. It’s a message we all should remember.

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Information for ECCFA Members

ECCFA Officers

Linda Hefferin, President
Rick Green, First Vice-President
Sue Ford, Second Vice-President
Dan Kocher, Third Vice-President
Linda McEwan, Treasurer
Mary Arndt, Secretary

William Demaree, *Sentinel* Editor
Armando Trejo, Webmaster

ECCFA Senators

BUS/TECH

Rick Green
Clark Hallpike
Roger Ramey

CABS

Tim Anderson
Dennis Lynch
Rachael Tecza

LR/CON

Linda McEwan

LVPA

Robert Harmon
Howard Russo

MSEH

Mary Arndt
Elizabeth Becker
Daniel Kernler

UAF

Rick Bonnom
Sue Ford
Crystal Kerwin
Ron Kowalczyk
Marcia Luptak
Chris Newman

Mary Peterhans
Cathy Tomasik

UAF1

Beverly Augustine
Dan Kocher
Steve Lipinski
Michael Walschot

Senate Meeting Dates, 2007-2008

Spring 2008

- ⊕ 30 April
- ⊕ 14 May

All meetings are at 3:00 p.m. in ICT 201.

Sentinel Dates 2007-2008

Submissions Due Dates	Publication Due Dates
Friday, 9 May 2008	Monday, 12 May 2008 (Classes End 14 May)