



MINUTES

Meeting of the Diversity Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State Universities Retirement System Monday, June 22, 2020, 1:00 p.m.

Via remote access only due to COVID-19 statewide restrictions

The meeting of the Diversity Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State Universities Retirement System convened on June 22, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. via zoom (video conference) based on the Executive Order that temporarily amended the Open Meetings Act to allow public meetings to be conducted via phone or video conference.

The following trustees were present: Ms. Jamie-Clare Flaherty, chair; Mr. Aaron Ammons; Dr. Fred Giertz; Mr. Antonio Vasquez and Mr. John Lyons.

Others present: Mr. Martin Noven, Executive Director; Ms. Brenda Dunn, Chief Human Resources Officer; Ms. Tara Myers, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. Bianca Green, General Counsel; Mr. Albert Lee, General Counsel; Ms. Kelly Carson and Ms. Chelsea McCarty, Executive Assistants; Mr. Clyde Tinnen, Ms. Shana Bell and Mr. Michael Calabrese of Foley and Lardner.

Diversity Committee roll call attendance was taken; Trustee Flaherty, chair, present; Trustee Ammons, present; and Trustee Lyons, present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Trustee Flaherty presented the minutes from the Diversity Committee meeting of September 12, 2019.

Trustee Ammons made the following motions:

- That the minutes from the September 12, 2019 Diversity Committee meeting be approved as presented.

Trustee Lyons seconded and the motions carried with all trustees present voting in favor.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Trustee Flaherty commented that the main focus of the Diversity Committee's discussion will be to determine what SURS is trying to achieve through the Chief Diversity Officer search and to discuss the SURS Inclusion Policy and how it can be amended.

CLOSED SESSION

Trustee Ammons moved that the Diversity Committee go into closed session pursuant to §2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Lyons seconded and the motion carried into a roll call vote:

Trustee Ammons	-	aye
Trustee Flaherty	-	aye
Trustee Lyons	-	aye

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon motion by Trustee Lyons that was seconded by Trustee Ammons and carried, the Diversity Committee resumed the meeting in open session.

DISCUSSION OF SURS INCLUSION POLICY

Mr. Martin Noven mentioned that the SURS Inclusion Policy will be presented to the board in September 2020 and he asked trustees to review the policy before then so staff can incorporate any proposed changes or suggestions in advance of the meeting.

A copy of the policy titled “SURS Inclusion Policy” is incorporated as part of these minutes as [Exhibit 1](#).

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments presented to the Diversity Committee.

There was no further business brought before the committee. Upon agreement, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Mr. Martin Noven
Secretary, Board of Trustees

MMN: cm



SURS Procurement and Staffing Inclusion Policy



Purpose

This policy outlines the State Universities Retirement Systems (SURS) goals for diversity in our senior staff, investment managers, fiduciaries and outside vendors.

Philosophy

SURS is about people – the members we serve, the partners we conduct business with and our employees. We understand that to meet our members' needs, we must recognize the value of diversity in the

workplace and embrace our differences. That's what inclusion is all about. When people are accepted and feel valued for who they are, they are engaged, productive, creative and innovative.

That's why over the past years, SURS has done extensive work formulating what inclusion and diversity mean to us as an organization and have developed a long-term strategy that will enable us to bring our vision to life. In fiscal year 2020, SURS created the board of trustees Diversity Committee, initiated our first on-site Diverse Manager Week; and will hire a chief diversity officer to create further concrete strategies and best practices to recruit, hire and retain a diverse workforce and businesses owned by women, minorities and persons with a disability (MWDDBE).

Objectives

- Promote competitive utilization of businesses owned by minorities, females, and persons with a disability in SURS contracts, purchases and services in order to meet our set goals;
- Advance racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of SURS fiduciaries, including consultants and senior staff in order to meet our set goals;
- Create a culture of inclusion to ensure a strong, productive work environment; and
- Assure compliance with Illinois statutes

Policy

SURS is responsible for the prudent administration of SURS members' trust fund. SURS strives to ensure that members and taxpayers receive the maximum value for each dollar spent. To this end, SURS recognizes that promoting diversity of fiduciaries and vendors provides an open, competitive and diverse business environment and allows us to draw from the wisdom of a workforce that reflects the population we serve and better meets the needs of our members.

SURS procurement and employment processes will further diversity in vendors and fiduciaries, including consultants and senior staff.

SURS employment processes to promote racial, ethnic and gender diversity of SURS fiduciaries, including senior staff must be developed to work in tandem with existing State University Civil Service System law when appropriate. To this end, SURS is committed to the ongoing efforts to seek job candidates from underrepresented groups, bring them into the organization, and offer additional growth/leadership opportunities with the intent of creating mutually beneficial long-term employment partnerships.

SURS procurement process includes a concerted effort to attract qualified minority, female owned business enterprises, and businesses owned by a person with disability (as defined by the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Females, and Persons with Disabilities Act: collectively, "MWDBE") to participate in the procurement process. SURS further commits to the objective evaluation of all qualified businesses regardless of race, gender or handicap in fair consideration of all suppliers and consultants in the acquisition of goods and services.

SURS stresses its goal of inclusion of MWDBE firms among prospective providers of purchased goods and services. Special efforts will be made to ensure identification of eligible firms for inclusion in the bid process, including monitoring of MWDBE-related listings to identify possible MWDBE contractors and service providers. MWDBE firms will be identified using resources such as the United States Small Business Administration, Illinois Central Management Services Business Enterprise Program and other public agency resources. SURS will seek new ways to expand our efforts to do business with MWDBE suppliers and consultants.

If necessary, SURS will take proactive action to ensure that certified minority-owned, women-owned and disabled-owned business enterprises are provided notice of and given the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to provide products and services at competitive prices. SURS staff who either directly or indirectly determine procurement needs or procurement decisions will seek and encourage MWDBE businesses to submit bids each time SURS publishes a request for bids or proposals.

SURS contracts require vendors to avoid unlawful discrimination in employment and to assure equality of employment opportunity and compliance with the Illinois Department of Human Rights' regulations concerning equal employment opportunities and affirmative action.

Pursuant to 40 ILCS 5/1-109.1 (10) SURS shall set an aspirational goal of no less than 20% utilization of businesses owned by minorities, females, and persons with disabilities of contracts awarded for "information technology," "accounting services," "insurance brokers," "architectural and engineering services" and "legal services."

SURS has set a goal of 25% for purchases from businesses owned by minorities, women, and persons with a disability as a share of all of its contracts and purchases. This information will be tracked by the chief financial officer and reported annually as required by Public Act 96-0006.

SURS has set a goal to promote diversity from the top down and the bottom up to ensure a culture of inclusivity. SURS will also recruit from a diverse, qualified pool of potential applicants to increase the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of its senior staff. This information will be tracked by the director of human resources and reported annually as required by Public Act 96-0006.

(Aug. 2019)