



MINUTES

**Claims Panel Hearing
of the Board of Trustees of the
State Universities Retirement System
Friday, February 26, 2021, 8:30 a.m.**

Via remote access only due to COVID-19 statewide restrictions

The meeting of the Claims Panel Hearing of the Board of Trustees of the State Universities Retirement System convened on February 26, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., via telephone conference based on the Executive Order allowing the Open Meetings Act to allow public meetings to be conducted via phone or video conference.

The following Claims Panel members were present: Ms. Carolyn Clifford, Hearing Officer (observing); Mr. Daniel Gaumer, Hearing Officer; Ms. Suzanne Mayer, Interim Executive Director, and Mr. Antonio Vasquez, SURS Board of Trustee member.

Others present: Ms. Annette Ackerman, Executive Assistant; Ms. Jennifer Bartell, Senior Claims Manager; Ms. Kelly Carson, Executive Assistant; Ms. Bianca Green, General Counsel; Mr. Albert Lee, Associate General Counsel; Ms. Karen Nyi, Executive Assistant; Ms. Denise Shelton, Medical Claims Processor; Ms. Ann Parkinson, Area Wide Reporting Service; Ms. Eileen Troutt-Ervin; Mr. Andrew Troutt; Mr. Carl Draper, Feldman & Wasser; Ms. Helen Troutt; Mr. Robert Shaw, Shaw & Martin P.C.; and Ms. Debbie Wuebbels, Paralegal, Shaw & Martin P.C.

Claims Panel roll call attendance was taken. Hearing Officer Gaumer, present; Interim Executive Director Mayer, present; and Trustee Vasquez, present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gaumer presented the open minutes from the Claims Panel Hearing of November 13, 2020, with a correction to the reference to the number of pages admitted into evidence.

Mr. Vasquez made the following motion:

- That the minutes from the November 13, 2020 Claims Panel Hearing be approved as presented with the agreed upon edits.

Mr. Gaumer seconded and was followed by a roll call vote.

Mr. Gaumer	-	aye
Ms. Mayer	-	aye
Trustee Vasquez	-	aye

Mr. Gaumer presented the closed minutes from the Claims Panel Hearing of November 13, 2020.

Mr. Vasquez made the following motion:

- That the closed minutes from the November 13, 2020 Claims Panel Hearing be approved as presented.

Mr. Gaumer seconded and was followed by a roll call vote.

Mr. Gaumer	-	aye
Ms. Mayer	-	aye
Trustee Vasquez	-	aye

PRESENTATION OF CLAIM MARVIN TROUTT, deceased

Mr. Andrew Troutt, son of the deceased; Ms. Eileen Troutt – Ervin, first spouse of the deceased; Mr. Carl Draper, Feldman & Wasser; Ms. Helen Troutt, wife of the deceased; Mr. Robert Shaw, Shaw & Martin P.C.; and Ms. Debbie Wuebbels, Paralegal, Shaw & Martin P.C. participated in the hearing. Ms. Eileen Troutt – Ervin, Mr. Andrew Troutt, Ms. Helen Troutt, Ms. Jennifer Bartell and Ms. Denise Shelton were sworn in by Ms. Parkinson, the court reporter from Area Wide Reporting, and said witnesses provided testimony when called. The documentary evidence was admitted into the record and consisted of 720 pages. Ms. Green provided a verbal summary of the issues to be addressed by the Claims Panel and all parties agreed with that summary. The Claim Presentation followed by the introduction of witness testimony.

Upon the conclusion of the claim presentation, both parties seeking the benefits at issue expressed interest in presenting written closing arguments. Mr. Draper asked for leave to order a transcript of the hearing to be provided by the court reporter prior to the deadline for submitting closing arguments. Over objection by Ms. Green, Hearing Officer Mr. Dan Gaumer granted the request to order the transcript of proceedings and confirmed that each party would be responsible for paying for their copy of the transcript. Ms. Parkinson confirmed the transcript would be available on or before Friday, March 12, 2021. Mr. Gaumer gave a deadline for submission of written closing arguments to all parties with the same due to SURS on or before Friday, April 2, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

There was no further business before the Claims Panel and Trustee Vasquez moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mayer and was followed by a roll call vote.

Mr. Gaumer - aye
Ms. Mayer - aye
Trustee Vasquez - aye

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel L. Gaumer
Hearing Officer

dlg:aa