

Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA)

Minutes of Virtual Meeting at UC Berkeley

October 26, 2022

ATTENDEES:

CUCEA Officers: Jo Anne Boorkman (D) Chair; Joel Dimsdale (SD) Chair-elect; Phyllis Mirsky (SD) Secretary; William Parker (I) Treasurer; Louise Taylor, Information Officer/Past Chair (B); Jim Chalfant Web Manager (D)

Emeriti Association Presidents, Vice Presidents, CUCEA Representatives and Alternates:

David Hollinger (B), Kenneth Polse (B), Suad Joseph (D), George Miller (I), Dan Mitchell (LA), Darleen DeMason (R)), Bill Ashby (SB), Loy Lytle (SB), Eli Silver (SC), Henry Powell (SD), Charlene Harrington (SF), William Wara (SF)

JBC Chair: Roger Anderson (SC); and *Past Chairs:* Roger Anderson (SC), Caroline Kane (B), Doug Morgan (SB)

Emeriti Activities Survey: Jessica Utts (I)

Office of the President: VP William Newton EVP & Provost Executive. Director (RASC)
Bernadette Green

Center Directors and Liaisons: Cary Sweeney (B), Jeri Frederick (I), Ayesha Dixon (LA), Cristina Otegui (R), Christy Dawley (SC)

Guests: Amy Joy Block (B), Marian Gade (B), Camille Koue (B), Sigrid Mueller (B), Julianne Crowley (D), Larry Thao (D), Emil Nguyen (I), Marianne Schnaubelt (I), Adrian Harris (LA), Raymond Russell (R), WD Morgan (SB), Judith Aissen (SC), Judith Habicht Mauche (SC), Todd Wipke (SC), Richard Attiyeh (SD), Mae Brown (SD), Matthew Xavier (SD)

Call to Order and Welcome:

Chair Jo Anne Boorkman called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Jo Anne welcomed the group and invited participants to introduce themselves.

Officers Reports: Chair's Report:

Chair Jo Anne Boorkman described the various activities she has undertaken. The Executive Committee meets monthly with the CUCRA Leadership to discuss issues of mutual interest and to coordinate topics for upcoming joint meetings. She has also met monthly with RASC. A letter to President Drake was sent regarding continuing concerns about Navitus. In addition, CUCEA and CUCRA had representatives on the interview/screening committees for the new managers being hired for RASC. Jo Anne is pursuing the issue of the CUCEA Archives, the paper copies of which are currently at UCLA. CUCEA does not currently have an archivist. She will be visiting UCLA in November to review what exists and what should be done going forward. The Virtual 11th Campus Report (results of the triennial survey) was distributed widely, including to the Board of Regents, President's Office, the Academic Senate, Legislative Analyst's office in Sacramento and the UC Government Relations Office.

Chair-Elect's Report:

Chair-elect Joel Dimsdale announced that RASC has instituted a service enhancement steering committee and he will serve as the CUCEA representative. Sue Abeles is the CUCRA representative.

Secretary's Report:

Secretary Phyllis Mirsky, moved the adoption of the distributed minutes. It was seconded by Louise Taylor.

ACTION: The minutes were approved as distributed.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Bill Parker presented the report on the 2022-23 budget. Expenses remained low the previous fiscal year so approximately \$16,000 remains as balance. Potential major expense for the coming year is the digitizing of the archives. Bill made a motion to approve the proposed budget and Louise Taylor seconded.

ACTION: The 2022-23 CUCEA Budget was approved.

Information Officer's Report:

CUCEA has two members on the Joint Benefits Committee. A two-year appointment is now open and the CUCEA Leadership recommends that Dan Hare, UC Riverside, be appointed to that slot.

ACTION: Dan Hare was appointed to a two-year term on the JBC.

Web Master's Report:

Web Master Jim Chalfant announced that the CUCEA website "cucea.org" continues to be updated and he thanked campuses for sending their Annual Reports so they could be posted. He encouraged each campus to review any links on their respective websites to make sure they no longer point to the old website location.

JBC Report:

JBC Chair Roger Anderson said it was wonderful that we actually made an impression on the Office of the President. The JBC Report, which had been sent in advance to UCOP, was obviously reviewed carefully and responded to in a timely manner. He queried the group as to what areas should JBC focus on next. Dan Mitchell recommended that the Committee continue to focus on the issue of continuity of payments (pension and benefits) until the problems are addressed. Judith Habicht-Mauche asked whether the contract with Accolade is an attempt to centralize health care facilitator services. Suad Joseph wondered if the retirement counsellors are in Oakland or at the campuses and urged that the issue of centralization of retirement counsellors remain on the JBC radar. Ken Polse suggested that we work toward having CUCEA be involved earlier in the process when a new vendor is being considered, including the discussion of why we need a vendor.

Adrian Harris remarked that for years the JBC urged OP representatives to coordinate on a continuing basis with PERS representatives on activities common to both organizations. It is clear that PERS has a better system in place to handle the issue of continuing payments to survivors when a death occurs. We should be able to benefit from a discussion of the PERS process in determining how the University handles this problem. He also suggested that the JBC should raise the following two issues:

1 - With the current significant increase in the "cost of living," there should be a review of the "buying power" of the retirement payments from PERS for those University retirees who derive part or all of their retirement payments from that source. While it took a number of years lobbying the UCRP Advisory Committee, we were able to finally get a continuing commitment to provide COLAs for the VERIP payments, because the Trust Fund that was established to provide funding for that program was significantly overfunded and included a provision that the Trust Fund would be untouched until the death of the last beneficiary. While The Regents have been providing special COLAs which bring the "buying power" for UC retirement payments to those covered by the University system to 85%, no attention has occurred for those receiving PERS payments. An analysis of their current "buying power" should be requested, and action taken if needed, so there is parity for all retirees.

2 - With respect to the tax deferred plans, the promised review and modifications of the “Savings Plan” to increase the yield has not occurred. The earnings rate has remained at 1/2 of 1% while interest rates have been rapidly rising. We need to urge immediate action to increase the earnings of this most safe option.

Jim Chalfant described a project undertaken by members of TFIR to develop a modeling tool to illustrate how retirees would fare under the 2016 tier options: Pension Choice, Savings Choice, and the Second Choice option that allows Savings Choice plan members to switch to Pension Choice. He also suggested that JBC look, along with TFIR, at issues and problems facing those hired after 2016.

Jo Anne Boorkman moved and Eli Silver seconded acceptance of the JBC Report.

ACTION: The JBC Report was accepted.

Emeriti Activity Survey:

Jessica Utts and Jo Anne Boorkman have been working on an official presentation to the Regents of the 11th Virtual Campus Report. Which subgroup of the Regents will be involved has not yet been determined. Jessica shared a draft of the slides and discussed the presentation. Adrian Harris suggested adding a slide about philanthropic contributions that Emeriti have made. It was also suggested that the presentation be distributed more widely.

Campus Reports and Issues:

The campuses had submitted their reports and are available on the website. Most campuses reported greater participation in online events than in the previous in-person meetings and some campuses held in-person lunches or receptions. Below are some additional comments:

Berkeley—David Hollinger: The UC Berkeley Emeriti Academy was launched in Fall 2019, and supports the continued research, teaching and service of Emeriti. Other campuses were interested in this project. More information is available at:
<https://emeritiacademy.berkeley.edu>

Davis—Suad Joseph: Julianne Crowley, has been appointed as the Director of the Retiree Center. The video records project has been actively working recording interviews with Emeriti as they retire, which are then posted online. An in-person reception was held for new retirees. Fund raising efforts this past year were focus on housing and food insecurity.

Irvine—George Miller: An in-person reception was held for new retirees. Future programming is likely to be in a hybrid mode. There has also been active collaboration with the Retirement Association to sponsor walks and raise funds for cancer.

Los Angeles--Dan Mitchell: Programs have migrated to zoom. An oral history is underway using zoom technology to capture the interviews.

Riverside—Raymond Russell: Meetings were held via zoom as well as in person lunches. In addition, fund raising to support advanced graduate students' travel to conferences/research has been successful with the first awardee in 2021.

San Diego—Harry Powell: The very successful Chancellor's Scholars/Emeriti Mentor Program was described.

San Francisco—Charlene Harrington: A newsletter was distributed three times during the year and several lunch programs with speakers were held.

Santa Barbara—Bill Ashby: The Chancellor's reception for new retirees was held once more under the aegis of the EA. The issue of sufficient support for the Emeriti and Retiree Resource Center continues. A Task Force has been appointed. Jo Anne asked other campuses to share any useful information they have on local support with Bill.

Santa Cruz—Eli Silver: The group held four lunches and two emeriti lectures. Linda Burman-Hall was the recipient of the Dixon award in 2019 and had planned to give a concert. Covid intervened and the concert delayed until this month and was presented in town for the entire community.

New Business and Adjournment

Todd Wipke asked that we explore a more coordinated and streamlined way to share the talks/lectures presented by the Emeriti Associations on each campus.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted, Phyllis S. Mirsky, Secretary