

HISTORIAN'S REPORT - October 26, 2006 - at Berkeley

When CUCEA met in April, as Historian I reported on the first intercampus meeting of UC emeriti associations: representatives from Riverside, Santa Barbara and UCLA had met at UCLA almost exactly twenty-five years earlier, on April 15, 1981, to discuss mutual concerns and, with the encouragement of University President David Saxon who had joined them for the occasion, to consider the formation of a university-wide organization of emeriti. Now that CUCEA is meeting at Berkeley, it seems appropriate to continue the story with a brief account of the formal founding of CUCEA here in Berkeley's Faculty Club on October 29, 1987. First, however, a few words should be said about how we had arrived at that point. During the decade of the 1960s in response to the mandate of the California Master Plan the University had nearly tripled the number of its faculty, and by the late 1980s a substantial fraction of these, all in much the same age group, were ready for retirement. The statewide Faculty Welfare Committee, foreseeing this, had recommended to the Academic Council that two emeriti, north and south, be added to their committee to represent emeriti interests. These positions were filled for 1984/85 and 1985/86 by Loy Sammett of Berkeley (who was influential on a subcommittee recommending procedures for maintaining annuitant income) and Claude Fawcett of UCLA, (who served with Peggy Musgrove of Santa Cruz on the Subcommittee on Emeriti Welfare, which in 1986 produced the milestone report laying out a basic University policy for the treatment of emeriti). Our own Marjorie Caserio, then succeeding as chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee's Subcommittee on Emeriti Welfare, with the unanimous approval of the Academic Council, transmitted the Musgrave Report to President Gardner in July of 1986. The somewhat hesitant response from the President's office four months later suggested that "as emeriti relations are a matter of individual campus concern" consultation by UCOP with campus chancellors would need to precede formulation of any general University policy on emeriti. Increased emeriti association activity on all campuses had obviously become a matter of some urgency, as had centralized representation on a new Council of University of California Emeriti Associations which would be able to speak with a single voice to the University's central administration, as well as provide a consistent constituency for the already-established emeriti members of the Faculty Welfare Committee. An Organizational Committee composed of Louis Riehl (Riverside) and Ralph Nair (Santa Barbara) with UCLA's Russell O'Neill as chair drafted a Constitution and Bylaws, and preparations were made with the support of Morley Walker (Director of the UC Benefit Program who over time had taken a benevolent interest in emeriti matters) for a meeting to be held at Berkeley to inaugurate the much-anticipated new Council.

Moses Greenfield of UCLA acted as convener, notifying all campuses of the arrangements which Morley Walker had kindly set up for October 29, 1987. The meeting would begin at 10:00 a.m. in the O'Neill Room of Berkeley's Faculty Club. There is no archival record of coffee, but lunch, hosted by Morley Walker was to be served "there". The surprising thing, as we visualize that meeting, is that this historic group was actually so small: there were only thirteen persons present, all of them men. Three of these were from the Office of the President (Morley Walker himself and two colleagues with the titles of Senior Vice President/Administration) and the remaining ten were emeriti, one representative from each campus except UCLA, whose Mo Greenfield was extra, as the convener. These representatives were: Carl Helmholz (B), Edward Roessler (D), George Brown (I), Claude Fawcett (LA), Louis Riehl (R), Hugh Bradner (SD), John Adams (SF), Ralph Nair (SB), and Albert Hofstadter (SC). The minutes report that Mo Greenfield called the meeting to order and in the course of introductory remarks announced that the Council's "organizational period was facilitated by the Academic Senate's one-time grant of five thousand dollars (\$5000.00) to assist in initial launching of the council's work." Three pro-tem officers were then appointed (Albert Hofstadter of Santa Cruz as Chair, Ralph Nair of Santa Barbara as Secretary, and George Brown of Irvine as Treasurer), and Professor Hofstadter assumed the chair. The group then conducted a systematic discussion of the draft Constitution and Bylaws, adopting these with minor amendments, and elected the Council's first-term officers in accordance with the Bylaws provisions. The remainder of the meeting was devoted to agenda items concerning the voting rights of emeriti in departments, the desirability of establishing emeriti centers on all campuses, and the maintenance of emeriti income. There was prompt adjournment at 3:00 p.m., and the members dispersed with the Council well and truly established as a functioning body within the University.