

CUCRA CUCEA MEETING WITH JANET NAPOLITANO

MARCH 8, 2018 AT UCOP

(attendees listed below)*

Representatives from CUCRA and CUCEA met on March 8th at UCOP in Oakland with President Janet Napolitano and key members of her senior staff. The reports from the two surveys done by CUCRA and by CUCEA on continuing activity and involvement of UC retirees served as our introduction to the discussion.

The meeting had no specific agenda; discussion was open and constructive. President Napolitano and Provost Brown led in acknowledging the two survey reports and what they represent. Both voiced respect for contributions of retirees and their ongoing productivity. CUCRA Chair Schnaubelt pointed out the inside front cover of the CUCRA report, “Ambassadors, Assets, Advocates,” where survey highlights were conveyed; she then focused upon the survey’s implications. She summed up by saying that the report’s title was chosen deliberately because that is what CUCRA members are and what they do.

Re: the CUCEA survey report, “The Virtual Eleventh Campus,” Provost Brown indicated that he has also read that report and remembered it; he also recalled details of his meeting with CUCEA in October of 2017 in Oakland.

Early parts of the discussion focused on what retirees could do to help UC and specifically OP. Advocacy, more campus service, and task force service for OP were all mentioned. Provost Brown asked if we had a database with retirees’ backgrounds, experience, willingness to serve, etc., that OP might use to identify volunteers. While no such database currently exists, we suggested that OP contact CUCRA and CUCEA leadership, as they know the campus leadership of retirement organizations, for soliciting such people.

Later parts of the discussion dealt more with how OP could help CUCRA and CUCEA and their member organizations. Specific topics: (1) President Napolitano was told of uneven levels of support for retirees and emeriti on some campuses – specifics were cited – and asked to prod Chancellors (she seemed receptive to this suggestion); (2) we encouraged funding to establish retiree/emeriti centers at those campuses without them; we pointed out how funding and space differ dramatically from campus to campus, even for existing centers; (3) we described the difficulty experienced by retirement centers and associations in accessing retirees’ e-mail addresses (still problematic, but recognized as something to work on; the President asked her staff to see if there was a temporary bridge mechanism before the new Redwood software becomes operational); (4) we pointed out the dramatically different ability to obtain free parking on different campuses, because free parking fosters volunteering on campus and continued affiliation with UC and is an appropriate recognition of service; (5) we thanked President Napolitano for the meeting and encouraged continuing to maintain and improve our access to OP and its support (including a representative from the President’s own office coming occasionally to our semi-annual meetings).

Post-Meeting Assessment:

For CUCRA and CUCEA, this one hour meeting was very useful. It was a UC organization-level (as opposed to only unit-level) affirmation of the standing that is held by CUCRA and CUCEA as representatives of the interests and welfare of the community of UC retirees. The meeting further established these two groups in the landscape of OP. The President and her staff were truly “in the

moment” in the conversation, and they were truly listening. We talked about real issues, and they took notes. President Napolitano also did a nice summary at the meeting’s conclusion.

Follow up thank you’s invited attendees to the fall 2018 CUCRA CUCEA meetings at UC Berkeley in October. Rachael Nava already has it on her calendar for Oct 24th between 1 and 1:30.

We did not raise the issues surrounding retiree health insurance although OP accepted CUCRA 's and CUCEA's recommendations for appointees John Meyer (of CUCRA, UCD) and Roger Anderson (of CUCEA, UCSC) to the Retiree Health Benefits Design Working Group. This group reports out to the President in June of 2018, and the Group has requested input as their deliberations progress.

*Meeting Attendees:

Janet Napolitano, UC President

Michael Brown, UC Provost and Executive Vice President

Rachael Nava, C.O.O., Executive Vice President, and the President’s Chief of Staff

Dwaine Duckett, Vice President, Human Resources (supervises RASC)

Cathy O’Sullivan, Rachael Nava’s Chief of Staff

John Valva, Executive Director, Alumni and Constituent Affairs

Marianne Schnaubelt, Chair, CUCRA (UCI)

Lynn Bailiff, President, UCRAB (Berkeley staff retiree association), member of the CUCRA survey committee (UCB)

Caroline Kane, Incoming Chair, CUCEA (UCB)

Jim Dolgonas, President, PARRA (President’s and Regents Retiree Association)

John Vohs, CUCEA Member, Author of “A Virtual Eleventh Campus” report on CUCEA survey (UCD)