

## **UCB Emeriti Association: Report to CUCEA, Spring 2024**

### **Current activities**

#### ***Lecture-luncheon Program***

We have continued our Saturday lecture / luncheon program. Lecturers and their topics this past year were:

Prof. Michael Silver – “The UC Berkeley Center for the Science of Psychedelics”

Prof. Yang Dan – “The How and Why of Sleep”

Prof. Poulomi Saha – “The Cult Culture Industry”

Prof. Lisa Wymore – “Teaching in the Digital Age: Facilitating Students as Creators”

Prof. Tim Hampton – “Notes on Cheerfulness and the Power of Modest Emotions”

These events have all been stimulating and enjoyable, with an active and lively discussion after each lecture. However participation in these events, while slowly increasing, has still not recovered to pre-pandemic levels. We are hoping that integration with other emeriti organizations on campus, discussed below, may increase interest in this program.

These events are currently organized as in-person only; for the time being we are not holding hybrid (Zoom plus in-person) sessions or recording the lectures, primarily because these modes of delivery appear to decrease in-person participation. However should participation return to more robust levels, we may add a remote option.

#### ***Grants and Awards***

Our awards committee has taken on a new function this year, namely the award of research enabling grants. These grants were formerly administered by the Senate Committee on Research, but this function was transferred to the UCBEA last year. This year the committee awarded 30 grants of \$1,500 each. After the grants were made we discovered a flaw in our award system, due to IRS regulations concerning retroactive travel reimbursements; we will attempt to correct this flaw in the next cycle.

In Fall we held an open-air reception to honor Sheldon Zedeck, former President of the Association and founder of the Emeriti Academy, with the Emeriti of the Year Award, in recognition of his many academic and administrative activities since retirement. The Grants and Awards Committee is currently reviewing nominations for next year’s award.

#### ***Health Benefits and Retiree Services Working Group***

The issues discussed by the Health Benefits and Retiree Services Working Group have included the RFP for renewal of the Anthem contract; restrictions on UCSF as in-network provider for the UC Medicare Choice Plan administered by United Healthcare; the status of the Navitus contract; problems with the availability of Delta Dental insurance; the shortage

of primary care physicians in the Bay Area; benefits for out-of-state retirees and faculty recalled to active duty; and the role of the retirement counselors recruited by the Retirement Administration Service Center. The group works with the Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare, the CUCRA / CUCEA Joint Benefits Committee, and the new UC Emeriti / Retirees Advisory Committee to convey the concerns of Berkeley emeriti.

### ***Legacy Project***

The UC Berkeley Emeriti Association's Legacy Project aims to preserve the recollections and reflections of retired faculty members. Videos are produced by the Association in collaboration with the UC Berkeley Retirement Center. There are currently thirteen videos on the Association's website (<https://retirement.berkeley.edu/emeriti-legacy-project>). Five further videos have been produced, but post-production work on these videos and posting to the website await recruitment of a new videographer.

### **Future Plans**

#### **Integration with the Emeriti Academy and Departmental Representatives**

The UCB Emeriti Association is currently one of three separate emeriti organizations on campus, the other two being the Emeriti Academy and the Departmental Emeriti Representatives. The Emeriti Academy's mission is to facilitate creative projects and research, teaching or service collaborations among emeriti from different disciplines. Departmental Emeriti Representatives play a key role in fostering communication on important issues between retired faculty, departments, and the EVCP's Office of Faculty Equity and Welfare.

It has become apparent that there is considerable overlap and redundancy between the functions of these three groups, that emeriti are confused about the respective roles of these groups, and that lines of communication are unclear; furthermore the Departmental Emeriti Representatives lack an organizational structure and a home. It has therefore been proposed that all three groups be integrated by bringing the Emeriti Academy and the Departmental Emeriti Representatives under the umbrella of the Emeriti Association. The hope is that this integration would promote synergy between the different groups, increase emeriti opportunities and participation, and allow the development of a set of expectations and best practices at the departmental level. This proposal has received the preliminary endorsement of the boards of both the Emeriti Association and the Emeriti Academy, and a transition committee has been established.

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