

UC Santa Barbara Emeriti Association Report to CUCEA

Fall, 2023-2024

The UCSB Emeriti Association began FY 2023-2024 year under the leadership of its new President, Muriel Zimmerman. Muriel is Teaching Professor, Emerita and former Director of the UC, Santa Barbara Writing Program. Her area of expertise is science and engineering communication. Welcome, Muriel!

Emeriti & Retirees Center Coordinator Ellen Pasternack is attending the Fall, 2023 CUCRA/CUCEA meeting at UC Davis in person, while Emeriti Association President Muriel Zimmerman and CUCEA representative Denise Bielby are attending via Zoom.

The Emeriti Association had a very busy Spring to finish out FY 2022-2023. The Board served as campus host for the Spring Systemwide meeting of CUCRA/CUCEA on April 26th and 27th (via Zoom), which was attended by representatives of all the campuses except Merced, and the Office of the President. It met twice during the quarter, on April 20th (hybrid) and June 14th (in person), and it held its semi-annual General Meeting for the entire Association membership on May 30th (via Zoom).

The Board's first meeting of 2023-2024 year was held on October 6th (hybrid). The Emeriti Association is sponsoring the Chancellor's Reception for New Retirees on November 2nd (in person) at Mosher Alumni House. A General Meeting for the entire membership is scheduled for November 7th (via Zoom), at which the Chancellor will report on the "state of the campus."

Business

- Two additional at-large members were added to the Board over the summer, bringing its total membership to a full complement of four officers and sixteen members-at-large.
- The Board revised and expanded association bylaws of the standing committees of Nominations, Membership, and Programs. It created two committees from the existing Committee on Communication: Development and Engagement and Website Advisory. The new committees will be presented to the November 7 meeting of all UCSB Emeriti.
- The Board created a new standing committee, the Committee on Emeriti Welfare. The committee will work in concert with the Council on Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom & Awards of the Santa Barbara Division of the Academic Senate and the campus representative to CUCEA on all matters pertaining to the welfare of Emeriti, Continuing Lecturers, Librarians, and Researchers. Among its activities, the new committee anticipates interfacing with UCSB's newly established Center for Aging and Longevity Studies (CALs), an interdisciplinary campus-wide research institute under the founding directorship of Joel Rothman, Distinguished Professor and Wilcox Family Chair in Biotechnology.

- The Board modified membership rules so that all eligible retirees will automatically become members upon retirement. Given the Board’s decision to grant membership in the Emeriti Association to all eligible members, the Membership Committee will no longer be responsible for attracting new members. In light of this, the committee has been suspended and temporarily renamed the Development and Engagement Committee so the Emeriti Association can now shift its focus from increasing membership to encouraging members to participate in association activities. The matter of requiring dues is still under discussion, and if revised may evolve into a “donation model” form of membership with donation requests designed to focus on particular association projects or needs. Under the new membership rules, the association presently has 462 members.
- Thanks to the generosity of our emeriti, in 2022-23 the Board funded an additional four-year Emeriti Scholarship to a UCSB Promise Student, Kimberly Baldwin, a communication major, in addition to the existing one to Maxwell Barrueta, a physics major, and it also funded a two-year scholarship for transfer student Alivia Morales, a communication major. Promise Scholars are identified each year from among students admitted to UCSB through the usual process and who have very great financial need. Most are first-generation students, and many are from under-represented groups. Without programs like this, students would have no choice but to incur burdensome debt in order to attend UCSB.

The Board funded two more Promise Scholars for 2023-2024. Qien Feng received a four-year scholarship and intends to major in biology, and Heath Milton, a transfer student majoring in Earth Science, was awarded a two-year scholarship.

- The Board congratulated three Dickson Emeriti Professor recipients for 2023-2024:
 - Alice Condodina, Professor Emerita of Dance
 - Joel Feigin, Professor Emerita of Music
 - Nelson Lichtenstein, Professor Emerita of History
- The Emeriti Association’s “.org” website is undergoing revision to merge it with the campus’s existing “.edu” website. The Website Advisory Committee will work closely with UCSB campus IT and HR on the transition.

Activities

Our Program Committee provided a robust and varied program of appealing in-person events and webinars to complete Spring 2022-2023 and has begun planning an equally engaging slate of activities for Fall 2023-2024.

Spring 2022-2023

- Zoom Webinar, “Higher Education in 2050: A Tale of Four Futures?” by Christopher Newfield, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of English, UC Santa Barbara and current Director of Research at the Independent Social Research Foundation, London, England

- Trip to the Lobero Theater in Santa Barbara for the performance of “Die Walkure” by Opera Santa Barbara
- Zoom Webinar, “Cockroaches and Superheroes: An English Professor in Copyright Court” by Mark Rose, Professor Emeritus of English, UC, Santa Barbara
- Tour of Sedgwick Reserve, Santa Ynez, one of the seven nature reserves managed by the University of California Santa Barbara Natural Reserve System, followed by lunch
- Zoom Webinar, “Policing in Santa Barbara, Including the New Oversight Model” by Kelly Ann Gordon, Santa Barbara Chief of Police

Fall, 2023-2024

- In-Person Lecture, October 20, “‘I see roads open up in front of me’: Drawing Connections among Discourses of Retirement” by Patricia Gettings, Associate Professor of Communication, University of Albany, SUNY, presented by the UCSB Emeriti Association and Center for Aging and Longevity Studies, and co-sponsored by the Department of Communication and SAGE Publications in association with the 19th Annual James Bradac Memorial Lecture. This is the First Emeriti Association/Center on Aging and Longevity Studies (CALs) Lecture on Retirement.
- Tour of Coal Oil Point Reserve, Isla Vista, one of the seven nature reserves managed by the University of California, Santa Barbara Natural Reserve System, led by Cristina Sandoval, Director on October 24.
- The increasingly popular “Bike to Breakfast” events, which are planned by Board members Bill Prothero and John Spaventa, were held on May 16th and 23rd, June 20th, August 12th, and September 12th. The meet-up locations vary, so far, between Cody’s Cafe in Goleta, the Santa Barbara Harbor, and Jeannine’s Restaurant & Bakery in Montecito. The optimal distance is about 10 miles on preconfigured routes chosen to minimize conflicts with traffic and use separated bike paths as much as possible.
- A diverse range of events is being planned for the year and will be announced at a future date.
- The Oral History Task Force continues to make progress on the project to capture and preserve the voices of distinguished UCSB emeriti.

The webinars are open to the entire campus community and are included on the UCSB events calendar. Videos are available at the Emeriti Association website.

Task Force Update

The Chancellor’s Task Force on Emeriti and Retirees was created in 2021 at the joint request of the Emeriti Association and the UCSB Academic Senate Council on Faculty Welfare. The Chancellor has responded favorably to two of the key recommendations offered in Phase I of the Task Force’s report: to increase the position of Coordinator of the UCSB Emeriti & Retirees Center from .5 FTE to 1.0 FTE, and to appoint an Emeriti Liaison to serve faculty exploring retirement as well as those already holding emeriti status. However, he did not agree to the recommendation to upgrade the Coordinator’s job classification from __Asst II to __Asst III.

Unfortunately, the third recommendation of Phase I has not yet been addressed: the restoration of on-campus retirement counseling. It is unclear whether RASC will establish a retirement counseling unit, and certainly no earlier than July 2024. If so, and if located in Oakland, it is also unclear whether counselors would make on-campus visits and whether they would consistently be the same person or persons. In the meantime, there is a crying need for on-campus counseling at UCSB, which impacts not only emeriti but currently employed faculty and their departments.

In Phase II of its report, the Task Force recommended: 1) transfer the reporting line of the Center for Emeriti & Retirees from HR to the Office of the Executive Vice-Chancellor; 2) consider how emeriti could be better integrated into campus academic planning; and 3) identify a larger and more prominent campus space to house the Center for Emeriti & Retirees. To date the Task Force has not received a response to these recommendations, apart from assurance that campus officers will keep our space needs in mind as they reassess campus priorities and space distribution.

In light of the slow and minimal response by Chancellor Yang to the Task Force's recommendations and in response to evidence received by the Academic Senate Council on Faculty Welfare (CFW) that RASC's dysfunction is also affecting actively employed faculty and their departments, CFW sent a memo to the Chancellor, with a copy to Academic Senate Chair Susannah Scott, strongly endorsing Phase I and Phase II recommendations put forth by the Chancellor's Task Force on Emeriti and Retiree Issues and urging immediate action to implement the Task Force recommendations. The Chancellor acknowledged receipt of the memo but to date has not taken any further action on the Task Force's recommendations.

In the meantime, the UCSB campus has the lowest level of support for emeriti and retirees in the UC system.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bielby
CUCEA Representative