

UC Santa Barbara Emeriti Association Report

Spring 2022

Our Board has met six times since the beginning of the academic year, in addition to the General Meeting on October 21. All meetings have been via Zoom. Much of our discussion has revolved around the inadequate level of support for emeriti at UCSB, compared to that provided by other UC campuses. The UCSB Emeriti & Retirees Center is staffed by a half-time Coordinator, classified as an Assistant II. Most campuses have at least one fulltime Director (not Coordinator) and at a higher classification. When the previous Coordinator resigned last summer, we tried to get the position reclassified and increased to fulltime; but this effort was not successful. Our President and Vice President subsequently met with the Executive Vice Chancellor and the Director of Human Resources (which houses the Emeriti & Retirees Center) to make the case that UCSB should be doing more. We have also met several times with the Academic Senate Faculty Welfare Council, which was well aware of emeriti concerns resulting from the problems at RASC. The result of this collaboration was a six-page memo addressed to the Chancellor and the EVC, signed by the Chair of the Faculty Welfare Council and the President of the Emeriti Association, laying out our concerns in detail and requesting that the Chancellor appoint a Task Force to look into the matter. The Chancellor has recently agreed to do so.

Another of our initiatives has been to get more reliable lists and contact information of our potential members. Our Membership Committee has made good progress, and we have begun more vigorous outreach to potential members, in hopes of growing our membership (which currently stands at 146).

The quarterly newsletter from the Emeriti & Retirees Center has resumed publication, now in electronic format: https://www.flipsnack.com/CFE877CC5A8/winter-2022_020122.html

Our Program Committee has been very active. By the end of the academic year, we will have hosted six well-received webinars, including those by our 2021-22 Edward A. Dickson Emeriti Professors, Michael Furlong and Francisco Lomelí:

- Shawn Hill (Police lieutenant and Ph.D. student in the Department of Communication): “Policing the Community”
- Marion Wittmann (Executive Director, UCSB Natural Reserve System): “The UC Santa Barbara Natural Reserve System: Our Living Laboratories for Research, Education, and Public Service”
- Oliver Chadwick (Professor Emeritus, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies Program): “Soil nutrient diversity on volcanic Pacific Ocean islands: Implications for Polynesian land use and global terrestrial productivity”

- Francisco Lomelí (Edward A. Dickson Emeritus Professor, Departments of Chicano Studies and Spanish & Portuguese): “Próspero Sarafin Baca: The Irrepressible Folk Poet of New Mexico”
- Christopher Newfield (Professor Emeritus, Department of English): “Higher Education in 2050: A Tale of Four Futures?”
- Michael Furlong (Edward A. Dickson Distinguished Emeritus Professor, Department of Education): TBD

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

We have also sponsored a mix of activities and cultural events, including a bike ride; a visit to the Margerum Winery featuring the well-known winemaker and UCSB alumnus, Doug Margerum; and attendance of a performance of “Humanity” by the Nebula Dance Lab. Yet to come this year are a docent-led tour of the “Through Vincent’s Eyes: Van Gogh and His Sources” exhibition at the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and another winery visit.

The UCSB Emeriti Association Scholarship Fund has grown, thanks to the generosity of our emeriti and friends, and we anticipate offering one or two additional four-year scholarships to students coming to UCSB in the fall.

Submitted by:

William Ashby, President and CUCEA representative

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