UCSD Emeriti Association Report to CUCEA – Fall 2026

Oct 11, 2026 · @Tim

Period covered: November 2025 – October 2026 (since our October 2025 report)
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The UCSD EA completed a full year of programming: a monthly faculty lecture series, the Emeriti Mentor Program for Chancellor's Scholars, four Dickson Awards, and a joint Holiday Party with the Retirement Association (RA). The EA is also working with campus leadership toward a strong, sustainable future for the EA and RA.

Leadership and Governance

A new Executive Committee took office in May 2026. Under the Constitution updated in September 2024, the Executive Committee has ten members, and the Vice President succeeds to President.

Role	AY 2026–27
President	Timothy Dresselhaus (Medicine)
Vice President	Deborah Spector (Cellular and Molecular Medicine)
Past President	Richard Madsen (Sociology)
Secretary/Treasurer	Madeline Butler (Neurobiology)
Members at Large	Harvey Goldman, Christine Hunefeldt, Henry Powell, Sharon Reed, David Rapaport, Carlos Waisman

Program liaisons to the Executive Committee:

- Emeriti Mentor Program: Jeff Steindorf, Chair
- Chronicles newsletter: Steven Adler, Editor
- CUCEA: Joel Dimsdale

- Retirement Association: Kim Signoret-Paar
- Oceanids: Nancy Groves
- Historian: Barbara Parker
- Retirement Resource Center: Larissa Foggiano, Director

The Executive Committee meets monthly by Zoom during the academic year.

Membership

The EA has approximately 250 members. RASC counted 727 UC San Diego emeriti retirees in October 2025, so roughly one-third of eligible emeriti belong to the EA.

- **Dues:** $30 single or $40 couple per year; $300 single or $400 couple for lifetime membership.
- **Eligibility:** retired Academic Senate members, non-Senate holders of the emeritus title, and comparable non-Senate retirees approved by the Executive Committee. Spouses, partners and survivors may join as associate members.
- **Recruitment:** a Welcoming Reception each winter for newly retired faculty, plus personal outreach by officers.

One issue affects recruitment: the EA receives no routine list of new emeriti. That information sits with campus HR, and sharing it would require a data-sharing agreement.

Programs and Events

The monthly faculty lecture series remains the EA's core program. Lectures are held by Zoom on the second Wednesday and are open to emeriti, faculty and Retirement Association members.

2025–26 Lecture Series

Date	Speaker	Topic
Oct 8, 2025	Terrence Sejnowski, Distinguished Professor of Neurobiology; Francis Crick Professor, Salk Institute	Neuro-AI
Nov 12, 2025	Sonia Ancoli-Israel, Professor Emerita of Psychiatry	Sleep and Aging

Date	Speaker	Topic
Jan 14, 2026	Mira Balberg, Professor of History; David Goodblatt Endowed Chair in Ancient Jewish Civilization	Care for Elderly Parents: Classical Approaches and 20th-Century Transformations
Feb 11, 2026	Lisa Levin, Distinguished Professor of Biological Oceanography, Scripps Institution of Oceanography	The Deep Sea Science–Policy Interface: Biodiversity, Climate, and People
Mar 11, 2026	David Jordan, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology	Whatever Happened to Esperanto?
Apr 8, 2026	George Tynan, Distinguished Professor, Jacobs School of Engineering	Nuclear Fusion

Other events and activities

- **Holiday Party (December 2025):** co-hosted with the Retirement Association at UC San Diego's new downtown event facility.
- **Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting (May 8, 2026):** held at the Faculty Club. Members installed the Executive Committee and presented the Dickson Awards.
- **Book Club:** meets monthly in hybrid format, with 46 members.
- **Video Legacy Project:** recorded conversations between emeriti about their careers and UC San Diego's history.
- **Chronicles:** the EA newsletter, edited by Steven Adler.

Awards

Four emeriti received 2026 Dickson Awards at the May 8 Annual Luncheon:

- Stuart Anstis
- Michael Criqui
- J. Allen McCutchan
- Andrew Scull

The award recognizes continued service, broadly defined: to students, faculty development, emeriti and the community. Each recipient was supported by multiple nominators, including colleagues at other universities in the US and abroad. The EA also

nominates members for the systemwide Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award.

Emeriti Mentor Program and Chancellor's Scholars Program

The Emeriti Mentor Program (EMP) remains the EA's signature contribution to the campus. About 40 emeriti and retired staff mentored Chancellor's Scholars in 2025–26. Professor Emeritus Mel Green founded the program in 2005, and the Chancellor has continued to support it despite fiscal constraints.

The Chancellor's Scholars Program (CSP) is a two-year mentorship and leadership program for Chancellor's Scholarship recipients, many of them first-generation students who must keep a 3.0 GPA.

- **Mentoring:** first-year scholars are matched with a mentor by academic and career interest, with bi-weekly meetings on academic planning, communication and career readiness.
- **Leadership development:** workshops, faculty and alumni panels, and peer mentoring through the student-run Chancellor's Scholars Alliance.
- **Calendar:** the year opens with a kickoff luncheon and closes with a ceremony where student awards are presented.
- **Governance:** an Executive Leadership Committee of current and past EMP Chairs, EA Presidents, an at-large member, the CSP Coordinator (Jen Homrich) and the Retirement Resource Center Director.
- **Communications:** the biannual *Chancellor's Scholars Journal* reports scholar achievements.

Emeriti philanthropy sustains the program through the Emeriti Chancellor's Scholarship Fund at the UC San Diego Foundation. Donor-funded awards provide eight study-abroad scholarships and peer-mentoring awards each year, totaling $9,000, and the Retirement Association provides annual program support.

Organizational Status and Relationship with the University

The EA and campus leadership are working together toward a robust future state for the EA and RA. Since 2006, both associations have been supported jointly by the Retirement Resource Center in Human Resources. A January 2026 campus advisory review

recommended formalizing that relationship in a written agreement, as Regents Policy 5203 contemplates for Affiliated Organizations.

The EA welcomes this opportunity. Conversations with campus leadership have affirmed the value of emeriti to UC San Diego, through mentoring, philanthropy, advocacy and institutional memory. The EA and RA are collaborating with the University on a sustainable partnership that will strengthen these contributions for years to come.

Academic Senate and CUCEA Engagement

The EA has a formal voice in the San Diego Division of the Academic Senate.

- **Representative Assembly:** a Division bylaw gives the EA a seat. Christine Hunefeldt holds it, with Madeline Butler as alternate. She reports at each Executive Committee meeting.
- **Faculty Welfare Committee:** Bylaw 217 reserves one seat for an emeritus member, nominated by the EA.
- **Senate leadership:** then-President Richard Madsen briefed the Senate on the EA's activities and future directions in March 2026.

Joel Dimsdale represents the EA on CUCEA and served as CUCEA Chair for 2024–26.

Issues for CUCEA Attention

The UCSD EA would value CUCEA's help on four questions likely shared across campuses.

1. **Affiliated Organization status.** How do campuses apply Regents Policy 5203 and the 2012 Presidential letter to emeriti associations? Could CUCEA collect sample MOUs and describe typical levels of campus support, and consider seeking recognition of emeriti and retiree associations as a distinct category?
2. **Administrative home and funding models.** What has worked in Academic Affairs, Development or HR homes? How have dues-free models with automatic membership worked, as at UCSB?
3. **Data sharing.** Can campuses routinely share lists of newly retired emeriti with their associations, with appropriate privacy safeguards?
4. **Operations.** What membership systems, officer email accounts, UC-compliant payment processors and tax filings do other associations use?

Timothy Dresselhaus, MD, MPH Clinical Professor Emeritus, School of Medicine President, UCSD Emeriti Association

Sources

- UCSD Emeriti Association website: Mentoring, Events, President's Message
- UCSD EA Report to CUCEA, October 2025
- UCSD EA 2025–26 Lecture Series; Executive Committee agenda, September 9, 2026; AMAS Report 2026-18 (January 2026); CUCEA Campus/Labs Retiree Counts (RASC, October 2025)