

UCSB Emeriti Association

Spring Board Meeting

April 20, 2023

Meeting Notes

Members present: Bill Ashby, Ellen Broidy, Cynthia Brown, Oliver Chadwick, John Gerig, Howie Giles, Judy Gough, Loy Lytle, Claudine Michel, Mary Nisbet, Bill Prothero, Bob Warner, Simon Williams, Muriel Zimmerman

Members absent: Denise Bielby, Pat Cohen, Dorothy Chun, Jon Spaventa

Guest: Joel Rothman, Director of the UCSB Center for Aging and Longevity and Longevity Studies

President Ashby called the meeting to order at approximately 1:10

1. Discussion with Joel Rothman, Center for Aging and Longevity and Longevity Studies (CALs)

Prof. Rothman described the founding and mission of the research center. Almost 35 faculty from across the disciplines affiliated with the Center. Main focus is biomedical but there is participation from social sciences, arts, and humanities. 350 collaborators domestically as well as internationally.

Center had its public launch 2 weeks ago at the Music Academy. Series of lectures sponsored by L&S. Five more are scheduled.

Cynthia Kenyon was the speaker at the launch event. Kenyon is known for discovering that a single mutant in an animal can expand its lifespan 6-fold.

The Center is interested in social and psychological aspects of aging and has a particular focus on the ethics of the science of aging and longevity. Future programs will include scientists and ethicists debating the ethics of extending life, including focusing on the effects on the environment and the ecosystem.

The Center encourages participation from across the disciplines and is in the process of developing courses under the guidance of a director of education and outreach.

Rothman asked whether the Emeriti Association might be interested in helping to grow the Center. The Center is soliciting ideas for research and education programs.

Bill A. mentioned that the Association could help publicize events.

Rothman asked whether any of us knew of possible speakers – as well as people who might be willing to help fund the Center.

CALS is sponsoring a Night Out at the Symphony for the 70th anniversary of the SB Symphony. The Center is also a co-sponsor of the talk with Diane Ladd and Laura Dern.

Howie Giles suggested a CALS/EA co-sponsored program on retirement and Cynthia Brown suggested having a program with a literary focus, recommending discussion of Prof. Cynthia Skenazi's book on aging in the Renaissance.

2. Announcements

UCSB is hosting the spring CUCEA meeting which will be on zoom.

On April 26, there will be a joint meeting of CUCEA and CUCRA. Every campus sends reps, as does OP (RASC and VP for Human Resources)

Bill A. announced a dialogue between president of CUCRA and director of RASC.

3. Consent items

Approval of Officers' and Committee Chairs' reports

Approval of minutes of the February 20, 2023 minutes

4. Approval of Bylaws change to add the newly created Committee on Communications to our standing committees (Article X – Association Committee, Section 1 Standing Committee Chairs and Members).

5. Proposal for universal membership (no dues)

Bill A. reported on a meeting that he, Cynthia Brown, and Dorothy Chun had with the past president of UCB's Emeriti Association to discuss Berkeley's decision to go to a no-dues model. The Association unilaterally declared all emeriti members of the association. In place of dues, the association requested donations. Dues netted \$2,000; donations netted \$12,000.

We then discussed the pros and cons of going to a no-dues mode:

Pros: simplify things; no forms to fill out, no reminders about dues payments.

Cons: it's a gamble. What if we do not get any donations – but at the moment we have a healthy balance in the bank.

No dues model would keep us from having access to personal email addresses/current contact information.

UCB said donations were tax deductible, making this method more appealing to some.

Question: how might we do this at UCSB? Response: set up a fund in the Development Office. We would then have 2 funds: scholarship and EA fund.

Berkeley has an EA fund and a retirement fund. It seems to be working for them.

Some people wondered how significant the tax deductible option was. Answer: depends on the size of the donation.

Another question focused on using money from RMDs (MRDs).

During the pandemic and lockdown, we expended very little of our funds. Expenses will rise as we get back to more in-person events.

Without being tied to the Development Office, no chance for tax deductions.

If we go with the donation model, no more money can come in to cover operating expenses and covering CUCEA dues.

Another con is that the donations model puts more pressure on us to fundraise.

We have little money coming from the Chancellor and our Center gets no funds from Admin.

UCB also asks departments for contributions (departments whose faculty members are involved in the oral history project). The UCB EA is a registered support group.

Bill A. mentioned that via our new website, hopefully people will find merit in what we are doing and be inclined to donate. The website is crucial in drawing emeriti to the organization and to our activities.

Discussion/questions:

- Would the second fund detract from the Scholarship Fund?
- How are we going to get these donations? How do we connect with retirees?
- How much money does the EA need every year to operate (and cover our expenses)? If we don't go to the donation model, could we raise the dues? UCSB currently has the lowest dues in the system.
- Could we tithe Board members or charge more for events?
- Why would emeriti give us money? Because we are showing that we are still a viable and valuable asset to the campus.

- Should we not charge dues, how do we handle donations? Answer is through the Development Office.

At present we have spent very little for over a year and we do have a cushion in the bank. We could have a donation button on all event registration pages.

Cynthia Brown moved that we suspend donations for a two-year period and make all emeriti members. We could do this for 2 years – as an experiment. Motion passed unanimously.

A letter will go out to all emeriti announcing the new “no dues” policy.

Question: should we ask Development to create a fund for EA or should we ask for money directly and put it in our checking account? Through the Development Office, the donations would be tax deductible – and Development charges 6%.

Tax deductible donations may result in larger amounts coming in and makes EA more integrated into the university. But...there are restrictions on how we can use the funds and all of this creates more work for Ellen P.

Two options: 1) suspend dues but no action on soliciting donations or 2) set up a fund and ask for donations.

At this point, we were going round and round with slightly varied versions of the same questions.

Decided that we need to speak with Development about how best to proceed.

Tom or Loy moved and Cynthia seconded that we implement a Development Office Fund in support of EA to cover operating costs, website hosting, and any other expenses we might accrue.

Motion: Ask the Development Office to establish a new fund for the Emeriti Association. When we announce universal, dues-free membership, we offer the opportunity to donate. 12 members approved, 2 opposed. Motion passed.

Next steps: after speaking with Development, EA Board president will draft and distribute a letter to all emeriti for whom we have contact info, informing them that they are now members.

We charged a subgroup consisting of Muriel, Mary, Loy, Bill A., and Claudine to coordinate the change and get the word out.

Last question on this topic: Is Development “cherry picking” our members for other projects?

6. Emeriti Spotlight criteria for selection

Questions: What's the process? What exactly are we looking for?

Bill P. offered his view that Spotlight should focus on interesting things that emeriti are doing – showing that we are valuable. Should be related to academic endeavors.

Mary mentioned that we should look at the criteria for promotion/academic review and identify people who are active in research, teaching, and community service. Cynthia spoke in support of using these criteria.

Bill P. - Spotlight should be a hook to draw in other emeriti.

Bob asked who is going to construct these? Perhaps the Public Information Office could assist. Ellen B. wrote the two last ones (Tonia Shimin and Pat Cohen).

One suggestion is that people make nominations to the Communications Committee. The Communications Committee should also put out a call to emeriti to nominate people for Spotlight.

Cynthia proposed that the Spotlight last for a quarter and Ellen B. recommended that we print a list in each quarterly newsletter with the names of previous "spotlight" emeriti.

7. Emeriti Association and Senate Committee on Emeriti and Retirement

Bill A. announced that this committee has been resurrected. Board member Denise Bielby is currently on the committee. Denise has convinced the committee of the need for creating an ex-officio member of the committee who is also a member of EA. While there are emeriti members on the subcommittee, there is currently no formal process to ensure that a member is explicitly from EA.

8. Website rollout and testing plan

Bill P. asked Board members to participate in the testing of the website and provide feedback.

We will stay in phase 1 of the testing until people feel that things are where we want/need them to be.

Phase 2: Bill will ask 10 or so emeriti (probably people unfamiliar with the site), to do phase 2 testing.

Bill thinks the site can handle event registration where anyone can use it to register, without encountering too many "bad actors."

However, there have been attempts to login from around the world. Bill has set up a security block that will prevent logins from outside the USA. Also, a limit on the number of login attempts in order to block BOTS.

Event registrations go to Ellen P. who determines whether the person attempting to register is an emeriti or retiree. She does the same with dues.

It's important that people trust the security and integrity of the site. The next level of security is for Ellen P. to distribute a code.

Membership registration: anyone with a UCSB email address is automatically registered. If no UCSB email, people need to fill out a form and get in an approval queue.

Question: With no membership dues, how do we handle this?

Muriel asked Bill P. what he would like the Board to do in the testing phases.

We need to perfect phase 1 before moving onto phase 2. Bill will notify the Board when the site is ready for testing. He is moving fast with this, so it won't be too long.

9. Task Force report

Ellen P. will become full time coordinator.

We will get a faculty liaison position (a recall position) to help people contemplating retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Broidy
Secretary, UCSB Emeriti Association