Call to Order and Campus Welcome
The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. by co-chair Caroline Kane. Logistics for the day were given.

Hosts’ Welcome and Introductions
Phyllis Mirsky introduced UCSD Executive Vice Chancellor Elizabeth H. Simmons who spoke to us about transformations at UCSD, intellectually, physically and culturally. Intellectually, they are hiring a new generation of faculty and working with a new librarian to redefine the meaning of “library”. Physically, Tata Hall is a new laboratory sciences building with research and teaching labs designed as non-traditional spaces. A new living/learning community is being constructed to house students from the two new colleges being built. Intellectually, there is a new CIO and an Enterprise System Renewal project in progress. Culturally, new programs include a Basic Needs Hub and Student Success Coaching. VC Simmons answered questions on funding, enrollment growth and transportation.

Approval of Minutes
Bill Ashby presented the minutes of the October 24, 2018 Joint Meeting at UC Berkeley. The minutes, with one correction, were approved unanimously.

Retiree Health Insurance and Medicare Advantage RFPs
Michael Baptista began by giving us background information about the various types of Medicare Plan Types, the UC Plans included in each type of plan, and the current distribution by plan. Michael’s main topic of discussion today will be Medicare Advantage (MA) PPO plans. UC does not currently have this type of plan. Due to the rising cost of health care, UC is looking for a new plan with significant savings and minor disruptions, and the MA PPO model has this potential. It is used by CalPers (among others) which has seen significant savings. This is accomplished through higher reimbursements from Medicare due to a higher Medicare star rating for MA PPO insurance.

Michael reviewed the project timeline, which is quite aggressive. It is expected that recommendations will be presented to the Executive Steering Committee in June. He reviewed the leading scenarios with their advantages and disadvantages. The various scenarios effect different numbers of retirees and have different prospective cost savings. The first scenario of replacing High Option, Medicare PPO and Seniority Plus with MA PPO plan has anticipated savings of $40 million per year. The objective is to have the new Insurance Plan ready for January, 2020 open enrollment. Bidders proposals are only available this year. We will be signing a 3 year contract to insure stability in coverage.

A series of Questions & Answers were reviewed. There are differences between the current reimbursement practices and Medicare reimbursement. The intent is to cover benefits in the same way they are covered today, including those beyond Medicare standard coverage for example, behavioral health. In home care is not being considered in the contract. The goal is for retirees to see little change in their benefits. Finally, financial estimates indicate that staying with the status quo, the increases for the three higher cost plans could be in the low double digits and retiree contributions for those plans could increase by 20%. The MA PPO proposals all project savings over the status quo.

A question was asked “What is the major cost of increased premiums?”?, and the answer was “Drugs”. In answer to a question about combining with CALPers, Michael responded that the reason we do not combine is that they have a higher risk score, our networks are different, they have a different population (i.e. prisons), and they are geographically different, among other things.

Joint Benefits Committee Report

Report is available on the associations web sites.

Roger Anderson discussed the functions of the JBC which include looking out for the benefits of Emeriti and Retirees. Issues covered in the current report are: health care, RASC issues, the pension payments, investments in fixed income savings plans, and a new topic, the choices for new employees.

John Meyer spoke about recommendations made by the Retiree Health Benefits Working Group. Their interim report was made in July. The recommendations were modest and asked for the group to continue into next year. OP decided that the group should be augmented and its scope should be expanded beyond retirees, to look at all plans, active and retiree. John will be the new chair of that group, and a new CUCRA representative will be appointed. The group will address the question: how do you have
a robust benefit package that is attractive, useful, and attainable. Michael Baptista will provide support to this group, including information of the ongoing RFP progress.

Retirement Programs and Services Update
* Marianne and Caroline identified a group of topics that we would like addressed at the meeting.
* Ellen Lorenz introduced the group from OP.
* Esther Cheung-Hill began with an update of the Redwood system, the replacement pension administration system that the RASC is using. Retirement functionality that currently lives in At Your Service Online will be replaced by Retirement At Your Service (UCRays). A new system called ROOTS will be used by benefits professionals, including Health Care Facilitators, to provide local counseling.
* Redwood launched on March 5 to be used internally by the RASC. This brought data from a 37 year old system, plus other systems, with 60 years of data into the new system.
* Esther covered the April 1 delay of pension checks being deposited into retiree accounts. This was a file transmission issue due to a new extra manual control which the RASC did not know about. The problem was quickly rectified and by 10:00 am banks did same day posting and by 2:00 pm people began to see deposits into their accounts. President Napolitano sent an e-mail to retirees explaining and apologizing for the problem. Changes are being made so this will not happen again. A second problem effecting CALPers members was also rectified quickly.
* Launch of UCRays is scheduled to begin this summer. Communications will be done through New Dimensions and other publications.
* Ellen discussed down stream effects of April 1 glitch. RASC voice mail filled up, creating a backlog that lasted 2-1/2 weeks. A question was posed on how the RASC can better communicate about problems in the future, including to retirees who are not on the Retiree Associations’ data bases. A new communication plan is being written.
* Ellen briefly reviewed the 5 year history of the Redwood project, using change management methodology.
* Communication needs to occur about the changes to At Your Services that reduce functionality, both to the Sites with Centers, and to those without Centers who get calls also.
* Michael Waldman discussed the problem with the tax withholding application which was not available on At Your Service during implementation of UCRAYS. It was available after the implementation, but RASC was not aware that ~500 change requests were in a queue waiting for approval. New system will not require approval.
* Michael explained that during transition, the old CICS database was taken down. In the interim, until UCRAYS is installed, Health Care Facilitators and Benefits Professionals have points of contacts within RASC (a buddy system), with 2 backups. There is also a listserv where people can submit questions, the commitment is to a 1-2 day response.
* When asked if the center Directors could have a “buddy”, we were told that there is one central point of contact, Anne St. George, backed up by Greg Ricks and Michael Waldman.
* It was reported that several retirees had not received answers to e-mails they had sent. Ellen will look into this.
* In UCRays, there is the ability to opt-in to share your e-mail addresses. We would like to help the communications team devise a script to encourage new retirees to share their e-mail address. We would also like past retirees to be encouraged to share their address. An article in New Dimensions will encourage retirees to sign on to UCRays and agree to opt in. We would like there to be a pop-up when someone signs in to UCRays explaining the benefits of opting-in to share their e-mail address with the local association.
* Insurance product to deal with identity theft. The four people who have come forward have been made whole. Advanced security (multi-factor identification will be used if a cell phone number had been provided). In process is an identity theft blanket security policy for retirees.
* Ellen would like to work with the JBC to give feedback re: problems that can be included in the report. Roger would like notification of topics that could be of interest to the JBC.
* There is a listserve for UC retirees and customers which is mentioned in the RASC phone message. This is an interim solution until UCRays is live because it will have a lot of functionality available on line.

Mission Statement
Statement is available on the Associations’ Web Sites
A joint CUCRA/CUCEA Mission Statement of purpose was approved by CUCRA with minor changes. This version will be circulated to CUCEA reps for final approval.

Fall 2019 Meeting Preview
John Meyer invited everyone to the fall conference on October 30/31 at the Hyatt Place Hotel on the UC Davis campus. Flyers were distributed. On line registration will be available.

New Business
* Jeri Fredericks and Caroline Kane presented Sue Barnes with a bag of retirement gifts to thank her for all her years of dedication. Sue will remain with CUCRA as the travel coordinator.
* Ayesha Dixon, incoming director of UCLA Retirement Center, introduced herself.
* Karen Rasmussen from Santa Barbara is also new to our group.

Adjournment
Marianne Schnaubelt adjourned the meeting at 11:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Harden
CUCRA Secretary