

UC Irvine Emeriti Association (UCI EA) Report

CUCRA/CUCEA Meeting – April 2017

UCI currently has 491 Emeriti/ae and another 14 surviving Spouses in our database. In last year's survey, more than half of our emeriti/ae reported that they continue to be very engaged on our campus and/or in our community and a substantial majority live within ten miles of our campus.

Regular Meetings

We hold monthly Executive Committee meetings at the Newkirk Alumni Center building on the UCI Campus on the second Thursday of each month. All emeriti are invited to attend. We cover a wide range of topics at these meetings, and usually have quite interesting discussions of issues around the campus, the UC system, our local community, and even "the world." As president, I am also a member of the Academic Senate Council on Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom and Diversity and the campus-wide Academic Planning Group.

Annual Business Meeting/ Outstanding Emeritus/a Award

Our 2017 Business Meeting will be held in June. We will highlight our UCI Outstanding Emeritus/a Award and our co-recipient of the 2017 Constantine Panunzio Award (Professor Emerita Margot Norris) and also have a guest speaker from our ranks.

Quarterly Scholarly Lectures

The UCIEA Program Committee arranged successful talks in [our quarterly series](#). Recently, Professor Emeritus of Physiology and Biophysics [N.D. Vaziri](#), co-recipient of our 2015 Outstanding Emeritus/a Award explained his path-breaking work on the complex "microbial community" in our digestive system and its implications in the treatment of kidney disease. Earlier in the year we featured talks by Margot Norris, Emerita Chancellor's Professor of English & Comparative Literature on "James Joyce and the Film of Ulysses," and Professor of Political Science, Martin Wattenberg on "How Donald Trump Won the GOP Nomination and Handed the Election to the Democrats" (on October 10, leading to some "oops-conversation" later...). Each lecture was well attended and provoked many questions.

Issues and Actions

Our central activity this year has been our response to a section of the recent UCI Strategic Plan that calls for ways to more fully engage our emeriti/ae in the activities of the campus. Since Fall 2016, the UCI Emeriti/ae Association has been actively developing proposals to support this goal. Ten specific ideas have emerged from discussions by the UCIEA Executive Committee, by meetings I have had with each UCI School Dean, from an assessment of the issue by the UCI Senate Council on Faculty Welfare, Academic Freedom and Diversity, and from ongoing discussions with the Engagement subcommittee of the campus' Academic Planning Group. These ideas serve as suggestions to Deans, Department Chairs, student leaders, and our top campus leaders. They include encouraging Deans to conduct an annual inventory of emeriti/ae regarding what actions they have undertaken in the year as well as asking each person what activities they are willing to engage in, if asked. It is suggested that Deans explicitly highlight emeriti contributions in their quarterly newsletters and host an annual event that recognizes those contributions. Other ideas include providing shared office space for emeriti/ae, facilitating appropriate mentoring (of junior faculty, graduate students and undergraduates) opportunities, and offering teaching opportunities to those with high quality teaching skills. At the campus level, there is a request for appointment of a recalled emeriti professor to serve as campus-wide counselor and advocate for emeriti and pre-emeriti (as exists of several other UC campuses).

As always, we are involved in discussion and advocacy of emeriti concerns in areas such as healthcare, housing, and benefits. These are in coordination with our UCI Center for Emeriti and Retirees director, Jeri I. Frederick. Details of UCIEA-everything are on our website at <http://sites.uci.edu/emeraliti>.

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