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UC Irvine Emeriti Association (UCI EA) Report CUCRA/CUCEA Meeting – April 2018

Regular Meetings: The UCI Executive Committee holds monthly meetings to which all UCI Emeriti are invited at the Newkirk Alumni Center building where our UCI Center for Emeriti and Retirees (CER) is housed on the UCI campus. In recent months, we have recruited several new members to our Executive Committee to insu re fresh ideas and energy.

Enhancing Emeriti Engagement: Throughout this year, a central topic has been our response to a section of the new UCI Strategic Plan that calls for ways to more fully engage our emeriti/ae in the activities of the campus. As previously reported, the UCIEA proposed ten suggestions for enhancing the linkages between the emeriti and their departments, schools and the campus community. We gained unanimous support for these suggestions from the Academic Senate Cabinet, the Academic Planning Group, and the Academic Senate Council on Faculty Welfare, Diversity and Academic Freedom (CFW), as well as the Provost/EVC.

We have experienced several positive improvements. This month, Professor Emeritus Bill Parker was appointed UCI Faculty Retirement Liaison. This part-time recall position will emphasize advocacy for emeriti issues in the corridors of power as well as advising those faculty who are in the process of retiring. Also, we have just reached agreement to begin a pilot program in May that will provide complimentary parking on campus to a subset of all emeriti and retirees (those who belong to either the UCIEA or UCIRA). We are grateful to other UC emeriti associations that were models for our advocacy on both of these ideas. Among our other suggestions, several Schools are now periodically administering a special survey of emeriti activity and interests and there is more attention in School-based newsletters to the accomplishments of emeriti. I am currently scheduling another round of one-on-one meetings with each School Dean to assess the School’s progress in moving forward on the various suggestions in our Engagement Strategy.

Retiree Health Benefits: UCIEA has also been active in monitoring the developments of the Working Group examining retiree health benefits, as well as providing information and mobilizing communications for all emeriti and retirees on our campus. We are analyzing the recent document on options and will weigh in at the appropriate time.

On-line Membership Payment: We have finally made operational a system that will enable emeriti to pay their member dues or a contribution to UCIEA online, using a credit card. This option is integrated into a campuswide system for contributing to UC Irvine. We now provide the options for one-year, three-year, ten-year and lifetime membership dues.

The Huron Report: This report on possible reorganization of certain functions at UCOP and on the UC campuses has been circulated to all Executive Committee members and we have been discussing it. We will monitor its relevance and possibly provide input individually, as an organization, or perhaps in an action with CUCEA, as UCOP responds to pressure from the Legislature.

Administrative Relocation: A top-down campus decision has reassigned our Center for Emeriti & Retirees under the Vice-Chancellor for Advancement and Alumni Relations. We are in discussions about how these new reporting relations affect our organization and activities.

Please pick up a copy of our UCI EA Newsletter for some highlights.

Jim Danziger, President — UCI Emeriti Association