

**UCSB Emeriti Association  
Board and Business Meeting  
Oct 24, 2024  
Human Resources' Learning Center in person, and by Zoom**

**MINUTES**

**1. Call to order and introduction**

Muriel Zimmerman, president, announced that 3 new members are joining the Board: Brenda Major, Carol Gemberling-Stewart, and Sandy Thompson.

Present: Muriel Zimmerman, Cynthia Brown, Pat Cohen, Mary Nisbet, Bill Ashby, Denise Bielby, Scott Cooper, Tom Gerig, John Gilbert, Judy Gough, Bill Prothero, Carol Stewart, Sandy Thompson, Bob Warner, Ellen Pasternack.

Muriel noted that there have been two resignations from the Board: Stan Awramik and Jon Spaventa

Ellen noted that she will be on leave from Oct. 30 to at least Nov. 12.

**2. Approval of Minutes, May 7, 2024.**

**3. President's Report**

Muriel noted that we are in the second year of the no-dues model, with reliance on donations to fund the EA account. It will take another year to assess this model, since the necessary development account to hold donations will be up and running soon: The Emeriti Association Program Fund is the account's title.

All emeriti (over 500) are now counted as members of the group. The old Membership committee has been reborn as a committee on Development and Engagement.

Muriel reported that EVC David Marshall has made good on his promise to give the Association \$15,000; he is especially impressed by our plans for an oral history project and a mentorship program in connection with Promise Scholars, of whom there are 6 at present.

**4. Vice President's Report**

Cynthia Brown reported that she serves ex officio on a number of EA committees and is pleased with the forward momentum they display. She reminded us that last year Board members made personal donations to bolster our checkbook, and encourages us to do likewise again.

## **5. Treasurer's Report**

Mary Nisbet noted that our bottom line figure (\$11,389) is not far from the same figure a last May: (\$12,978). We overspent in a few areas: supplies--\$295-- in the form of original design thank-you cards; a big thanks to Ellen Pasternack for help there); and the net cost of the Promise Scholars' lunch at the faculty club (\$360). We underspent on event sponsorship.

Our fundraising to support our Promise Scholars program was exceptional last year: \$31,800 was raised. This is enough to allow us to commit to two new students this year, something that was not certain last year. It appears that there was at least one large donor Mary is aware of. Development gives a list of donor names so we can thank them, and the aggregate of donations for our budget. But we in fact cannot know the distribution between large and small donors. Mary reiterated that we need to have \$10,000 minimum for a four-year student and \$5,000 for a two-year student.

## **6. Program Committee**

Bill Ashby reviewed the list of events on the calendar for this year, including two campus botany tours led by Bruce Tiffney in September, several emeriti talks, and a repeat of last year's Hermitage Sculpture Garden tour on Jan. 13. Bill noted that participation rates have been disappointing for some events. The Committee is discussing ways to promote engagement. One new idea is to advise the home department about the emeriti talks. John Gilbert suggested that we forge links to other UC emeriti events; with Zoom we could expand our audience and also expand our own viewing possibilities.

## **7. Development and Engagement**

Judy Gough reported that this committee has sent letters to new non-academic senate retirees (30 in number) informing them that they are welcome in the Emeriti Association. The new thank-you cards have been sent to donors who contributed to the Promise Scholars Fund. A fund-raising letter for that project will be sent out to all emeriti in two blasts, two weeks apart in November. In the spring the committee will launch a second fundraising campaign to request contributions to the Emeriti Association Program Fund, in our new non-dues format.

Judy reported that board member Claudine Michel will be collaborating with Holly Roose (administrator of the Promise Scholars program) to create and launch the mentoring program for the scholars.

## **8. Oral History**

Sandy Thompson joined the committee this summer and now chairs it. The committee met several times over the summer and early fall by zoom. We have reviewed similar

programs at Davis and Berkeley, as well as other organizations. We are consulting closely with Janet Walker, newly retired last year from Media and Film Studies, and her expertise and suggestions are greatly appreciated. In particular, she urged us to consider not aiming for the cheapest mode of production, but to spend more to produce a small set of high quality interviews that could be used to fund-raise for more down the road. The committee will next meet on Nov. 6 and expects to be able to produce a trial run video in the near future.

Bill Ashby recalled that the library has videography equipment; Pat Cohen suggested that there might yet be other locales on campus with capacity for our needs. The new money from the EVC is restricted to expenditures using campus entities only.

## **9. Welfare Committee**

Bill Ashby reported that emeriti faculty with research budget lines unexpended in their departments are in some cases learning that departments have been clawing back those funds. The welfare committee is urging L&S to develop a campus-wide policy about these funds, to promote uniformity. One dean, when contacted, told Muriel that the deans are working on this.

John Gilbert created a survey of the last two cohorts of faculty retirees, asking about their experiences dealing with RASC in the process of retiring. They got a 26% response rate, with many from the first year and far fewer from the second-year cohort. Respondents reported many problems, some in great detail. RASC was in crisis state for some time, but improvement have been made. The survey will extend into a third year, tapping the most recent retirees. John reflected that perhaps changing the subject line of the email (“Emeriti Association is asking you for fill out a Survey”) to something more catchy will lead to a better return. Follow-up phone calls or personalized emails were suggested. John stressed that part of the problem lies in the requirement to maintain email address anonymity. Muriel said that CUCEA is very interested in this survey; John’s report on it was sent to them.

Scott Cooper commented on the vituperative quality of some respondents’ remarks; is systemwide doing something? Ellen Pasternack agreed; she has heard from faculty in crisis mode about applications getting lost and long wait times on the phone. Denise Bielby remarked that RASC has been under fire for five years; in the last year, some improvements (a better phone tree, more friendly employees) are in place but there are still problematic pockets, some picked up in John’s survey (transition to Medicare; survivor benefits). It all needs to be watched, she said. Bill added that there are now advising teams of consultants from RASC; we will see how that goes he said. John is our representative to CUCEA, which is meeting next week. Bill added that the meeting, in Santa Cruz, is also on zoom, and anyone of us can join in to this two-day meeting. John will post a link to it into the chat. Bob Warner applauded John for his excellent report.

## 10. Web Advisory

As this part of the agenda began, the sound was completely muted for the zoom attendees for about 5 minutes. The secretary on zoom could see that Ellen and Muriel were presenting something on the screen and discussing it with vigor and interest. There were comments for others in attendance, now lost to the archives. When the snafu was noticed and corrected (thanks for an SOS sent by Bob to Ellen), we learned that the discussion was about the new website.

Ellen and Muriel gave a tour of the new website, based on Drupal, a content management framework. The URL is [emeritiassociation.ucsb.edu](http://emeritiassociation.ucsb.edu). Ellen demonstrated nifty features like tiles and accordions, and the provision of multiple pathways to reach the same destination. A lot appears to be built out with examples. This part of the agenda claimed the most time in the meeting as the group was shown the many capabilities of the site.

The model for this website was the UC San Diego emeriti, which features many attractive photos. John Gilbert suggested there be a donate button right at the entering portal (in addition to the donate button in the section “making a difference”).

## 11. New Business

Muriel reminded us that we have an annual meeting of the Board open to all members (500+) on December 13. In practice, few beyond the board ever attend. Chancellor Yang always gives a “state of the campus” report at this event. How shall we use that time, Muriel asked.

Suggestions: further talk about the website; talk further about the third-cohort survey. Bill Prothero spoke at some length about further discussion on linking the weekly e-blasts to the website, but he was not using the microphone, so the secretary missed it. Muriel indicated this would be good to pursue for the Dec 13 meeting.

Motion to **adjourn**, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Cohen, Secretary