

## UCSB Emeriti Association Oral history Committee Report

October 24, 2024

### Members:

Ellen Brody, co-chair

Sandy Thompson, co-chair Pro Tem

Pat Cohen

Loy Lytle, 'on leave' until November

Muriel Zimmerman, Ex-officio

Cynthia Brown, Ex-officio

Ellen Pasternack, Ex-officio.

The Oral History Committee's mandate is to find the most effective and cost-efficient methods for recording the oral histories of emeriti faculty of high academic reputation, and/or with institution-shaping campus service.

We've met on Zoom several times this quarter, and have received valuable advice from a range of experts. Noteworthy progress:

- We confirmed that our ultimate goal is to videotape interviews with retired faculty, and provide both video and transcription online, possibly at the Emeriti Association website and/or archived in the UCSB library.
- EVC David Marshall has committed \$15,000 in campus funds to the Emeriti Association, in large part to provide funding for the Oral History project, about which he is enthusiastic. These funds must be expended on a recharge basis for services provided by campus entities. We also have seed money of \$1,000 from donated funds in the Emeriti Association's coffers which Muriel has earmarked for this project (= our 'Checkbook').
- We've watched a number of interviews from other campus' Oral History Archives, and consulted with Alan Jackman at UC Davis, where their Video Records project has been going on for some 30 years.
- Locally, we've received excellent advice from Albert Ihde, professional filmmaker and producer (cf. Minutes of August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2024).

- We're in regular correspondence with Janet Walker, newly retired from Film Studies. She will meet with the committee on November 6 to share her advice on personnel, equipment, costs, and video production.
- We agreed that our committee should be the location for all decisions about interviewees. We will invite the Board to make nominations for our consideration. If our first three interviews will be used to generate interest with donors, we agreed they will need to be picked with that in mind. There was some discussion about recent top administration officials and their ability to spark interest from potential donors.
- We hope to be ready to conduct a test run in mid-November, where Cynthia will interview Bill Ashby. With feedback from the committee, Cynthia has prepared a list of possible questions and topics.
- We'd planned to conduct one interview per quarter, but several of our advisors have suggested that once we're set up, we might try to do two or three interviews at once, at least one such session per quarter.
- The committee was grateful for the advice from Patrice Petro through Pat and Janet; Pat volunteered to convey that thanks and to open a channel of communication with her. While relatively new to this faculty, Patrice has a long history with UCSB, having attained a double BA and an MA in the 1970s, in both film studies and history. Her knowledge and experience could be invaluable to our project.
- The committee discussed locations for the interviews, and decided to hold our November meeting with Janet Walker in the emeriti-designated space in HR to enable us to evaluate that venue (its space, furniture, lighting, and general ambiance) for a possible two-camera set up. We will consult with her about locations for future interviews, including the possibility of locations appropriate to the interviewee's research interest.