

UCSB Emeriti Association

Winter Meeting

February 20, 2023

Meeting Notes

Members present: Bill Ashby, Cynthia Brown, Ellen Broidy, Oliver Chadwick, Dorothy Chun, Pat Cohen, Scott Cooper, Judy Gough, Loy Lytle, Bob Warner, Bill Prothero, Jon Spaventa, Simon Williams, Muriel Zimmerman

President Ashby called the meeting to order at approximately 11:05

1. Officer Reports

[Several officer reports appear [on the Emeriti Association website](#)*. What is recorded here are items not covered fully in the written reports]

a. President (Bill Ashby)

Ashby reported on a fruitful meeting the Task Force had with the Chancellor, EVC, and AVC for Academic Personnel. Outline of recommendations received very positively. Ashby will send these back to the Chancellor today or tomorrow. These recommendations include:

- *New FTE position for Coordinator of Emeriti and Retiree Center
- *Retention of 50% clerical position
- *Recommend hiring an on-campus retirement advisor
- *Establish new emeriti liaison position (faculty recall)

The Task Force and the Chancellor, EVC, etc., will continue to discuss questions of space and how the emeriti fit into the academic plan and mission of the university.

Ashby felt that this was a collegial and positive meeting.

b. Vice President (Cynthia Brown)

Brown reminded us that as VP, she sits on all standing committees.

Brown reported that Muriel Zimmerman has agreed to stand for election as President. With a change of leadership in mind, Ashby and Brown worked on a list of the president's responsibilities to make the transition easier. The Board thanked Muriel for her willingness to step forward.

c. Secretary (Ellen Broidy)

Broidy apologized for the lack of minutes from the Nov. 7th meeting. Unable to attend in person, regrettably, the zoom link did not work well so for all intents and purposes, the Secretary was not at the November meeting.

d. Treasurer (Bill Prothero)

Please see Treasurer Prothero's [report on the EA website](#).

Prothero went over the highlights: Dues payments from 1/1/22-2/19/2023; 125 dues paying members adding up to \$1,620 – slightly down from previous years. NB: these numbers differ slightly from the numbers in President Ashby's report.

Union Bank balance:

Business Essentials: \$13,537

Business Basics Checking: \$1,000

Website development costs (donated) to dates: \$1,153

The Treasurer's report led to a lively discussion of whether or not to have dues, in some form or other. Both Treasurer Prothero and Chair of the Membership Committee Chun are finding the tracking and management of dues payments quite cumbersome. We are receiving dues payments via U.S. mail and online. If we decide to continue as a dues-paying organization, the ideal would be to have all payments made via the website. Hopefully, this capability will be active by the spring. Rest of the report on dues discussion under the Membership Committee Chair report.

Scholarship Fund (additional details in President Ashby's report [found on the EA website](#))

At this point, we have \$6,400 in the Development Office account to cover scholarships. Thus far, we have awarded 3 scholarships (Maxwell Barrueta (\$10,000); Kimberly Baldwin (\$10,000); Alivia Morales (\$5,000). We should be in a position to award another scholarship in the fall.

2. Committee Reports

a. Program Committee (Simon Williams, Muriel Zimmerman)

- *Art Museum date still not set (a work in progress)

- *Discussing the possibility of starting a book club – choice of book authored by UCSB faculty member or emeriti.

- *Discussing walks (similar to bike rides)

- *10 people have signed up for "Bike to Breakfast"

All programs in progress included in the [report posted on the website](#).

b. Nominations committee (Bob Warner)

Chair Warner unavailable at the beginning of this meeting. Ashby made the major announcement that Muriel Zimmerman would run for president of EA. There is a [brief report on the website](#).

c. Membership (Dorothy Chun)

In addition to the complete [report that appears on the website](#), we turned our attention to a discussion of the dues structure and general membership issues.

Judy Gough, Cynthia Brown, and Dorothy Chun met. They think that we are up-to-date contacting recent retirees (across all categories eligible for membership). They suggest that the best time to contact retirees about joining EA is right when they retire.

Chair Chun put in the chat some suggestions to increase membership, including:

Defining who we are. The new website should help us get the word across about who we are and what we do. Judy Gough will be creating a “snappy, short, and sweet invite” to be sent out in July with links to the website and all of our past and future events.

What is our goal for membership? There are currently 125 members out of a total of approx. 500 retirees (23%)

Eliminating dues would be helpful in many ways (because currently it’s confusing to know when to pay, paying every year, and how to pay.

*if we eliminate dues, perhaps participants could pay extra for events

*If we eliminate dues, perhaps the Chancellor could help (200 members x \$15 = \$3,000)

Who may participate in events? Only members?

Other ideas/thoughts, etc.

*List current members of the website (just names; no contact info.)

*Clarify our goals for the number of members. Who do we want to attract?

*Eliminating dues might eliminate a roadblock to joining. As mentioned in the chat posting, we might add a small charge for events. For some events, however, there is a cap on attendance.

*Informing Emeriti that they might have a chance to teach. Would this be appealing?

Simon Williams suggested the option of paying all dues upfront as the only payment members would make. Benefit of this is that it eliminates the need for dues reminders – clearly an issue as demonstrated by the fact that 7 Board members are currently in “dues arrears.”

This led to a robust conversation of dues vs. no dues, annual dues vs. lifetime membership and other possible configurations of charging/not charging dues.

UCSF and UCB have done away with collecting dues. Berkeley eliminated dues and asked instead for a donation (tax deductible). UCB has declared all emeriti to members “by fiat.” They report that they are bringing in 3x the amount of money in donations than they previously did in dues. Some Board members thought it would not be a problem for us. At UCSB, dues bring in approx. \$1,500/year. We could probably match or exceed that in donations. The Alumni Association gave up on dues and relies now on donations.

One other option is lifetime membership, based on a single payment. There is a possibility that this option would have no impact on donations

Jon S. asked what Board members thought was the most efficient way to have everyone become a member. In response, several people responded that whatever we can do to make joining less onerous, would be in the best interests of EA. To quote Bob Warner, “we don’t want to put up barriers.”

Several people indicated a willingness to “take a chance” on no dues but encouraging donations, in part for PR and lobbying purposes. Others expressed concern that the disadvantage to making everyone a member is that not all will participate in activities or make donations, thus cutting into our revenue stream.

We did not reach consensus other than to agree that we want/need more members and would like to make it both simple and beneficial to become a member.

President Ashby will try to arrange a zoom meeting for himself, Muriel, and Dorothy with people at UCB to discuss their no-dues model.

3. Website Update – Bill Prothero

Board members were asked to “test drive” [the website](#). Prothero thanked the folks who tried out the site. Bill asked that we inform him of anything amiss we find on the site, including typos.

Uses for the website include, among others, managing our events and making a pitch for validity of EA.

Bill P. hopes to be done soon with his work on the site.

Using the website to pay dues is less of a priority now that we are discussing the possibility of no dues model.

Question about what things would be most valuable/useful to know about the membership of EA.

Goal of the website is to bring people to us, encourage them to get involved, advertise what we are doing through things like Spotlight on Emeriti and list of events and activities.

There are still some issues with HR about what information we can have access to.

HR apparently concerned about maintenance of accuracy of links and who would be responsible for this as well as the fact that in its current iteration, the website is not ADA compliant. We need to remain in dialogue with HR to clear up these and any other issues that might crop up. Bill A. mentioned that the CUCEA website links to all sorts of UC sites so thinks that we should be able to do so as well.

The website discussion led to a conversation about the proposed Communication Committee.

4. Proposed Communication Committee

Prior to the meeting, President Ashby distributed a draft charge for the Communication Committee. At our meeting, Muriel, Loy, and Bob Warner volunteered to serve on the new committee and Bill Prothero agreed to chair. Question of whether this would be a standing or ad hoc committee. If standing, it needs to be incorporated into the bylaws which requires a vote of the membership.

This issue of communications generally led to a discussion of who would have access to what materials on the website. Are there documents that are limited to Board members as opposed to materials available to the public. This calls for a “2-pronged” approach that Bill P. will set up. Ideally this can be accomplished in a way that avoids Board members needing to look in two different places for postings.

Muriel asked whether Board members could be notified by email when there is a posting of note on the website. Bill P. will address this issue.

5. Lunch with Scholarship recipients

Since we have never met these students in person, Bill A. wondered whether we might be interested in hosting a lunch for them. All agreed that was a good idea.

6. Board breakfasts

This would be an informal get-together, not a meeting. Idea is to build community among members of the Board but we need volunteers to make it happen. The Retiree Association already does this monthly.

President Ashby adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Broidy, Secretary
UCSB Emeriti Association

*UCSBEmeriti.org