Vice President’s Report  
6 October 2023

During the summer and early fall of 2023, I worked with our new President, Muriel Zimmerman, to plan for Emeriti Association needs and activities in 2023-2024.

Standing committees are ramping up their involvement and contributions to the EA. Several, including the newly named Development and Engagement Committee (a temporary replacement of Membership) and the ad hoc Oral History Committee, which wishes to become a standing committee, met during this time period. The Program Committee plans to meet next week.

At a June 12th meeting with Chris Pizzinat, Executive Director of Development, we inquired about establishing a tax-deductible current-use Emeriti Association Fund like that at UC Berkeley¹ to attract members’ direct donations in support of EA activities and events (e.g., honoraria for lectures [such as the upcoming Centers for Aging and Longevity event], CUCEA dues, AROHE membership, the Chancellor’s Fall Reception, Oral History Committee costs, celebration of our Promise Scholars, etc.). While such gifts would have to be spent at the University and donors cannot derive direct benefits from such gifts (re: the potential concern about the IRS definition of “self-dealing”), Chris thought it might be possible to set up such a plan. The issue that arose, however, was whether HR would be able to administer fiscal oversight of such an arrangement. Unfortunately, it turns out that there is no manager in HR who could take on this task. Since the position of the Emeriti/Retiree Center Coordinator has not been upgraded (despite recognition of the need for a salary increase), (s)he cannot assume this duty. In the meantime, we plan to ask members to consider contributing funds by sending a check to the Center Coordinator. How is it best to attract such donations and not confuse them with our request for Promise Scholars Fund donations? We might consider waiting until January each year to encourage these contributions.

The Executive Board met in August to discuss EA website issues. The discussion was precipitated by Bill Prothero’s request for $2500 in support of his continuing website creation activities. After much discussion, we agreed that, in the end, it was wisest to maintain our Emeriti Association website on our current UCSB site through the Human Resources server. While we recognize and greatly appreciate Bill’s hard work and time spent in setting up his website, we felt it was most important to keep our EA information associated with an “ucsb.edu” site, one for which the EA incurs no cost,

¹ UC Berkeley’s Emeriti Association is housed with the Vice Provost of Faculty and has a fund and website administered by its Center.
one that automatically comes with protected security, and one that can be officially
authorized by the EA Board. In a subsequent meeting with Bill, we were very pleased
that he supported this decision and was willing to help migrate some of the sections of
his website to our ucsb.edu site. In this way, a good deal of the work he has put into
website creation will not be lost. In addition, our current UCSB site will need to be
updated. John Gilbert agreed to make an analysis of other UC EA websites and make
some recommendations.

In August I met with Holly Roose, Director of UCSB’s Promise Scholars Program.
She has agreed to continue the partnership with EA that Bill Ashby set up last year.
Since we don’t have access to personnel files, we rely on Holly, who has done an
excellent job selecting potential scholars and then interviewing them once classes begin,
before suggesting two individuals, a first-year student and a transfer student, whom the
Emeriti Association then considers supporting. This sponsorship has involved
providing $2500/year to a freshman ($10,000) and $2500/year to a transfer student
($5000).

This interaction with the Promise Scholars Program has led to several related
issues. First, we need to find an effective way to attract donations from all Emeriti to
support this program, without confusing such an appeal with our invitation to all EA
members to donate to the Emeriti Association Fund. A separate section on our website
might be set up devoted only to the Promise Scholars Program, not only with a
“button” for such donations, but with photos of and details about the students we are
currently supporting. There will be five in 2023-2024, including three currently
supported from the past two years – our 2021-22 (one Freshman) and 2022-23 (one
Freshman, one Transfer) students – and the two to be named this year. It would also be
timely in a series of multiple e-blasts in the Fall, when we announce our new grantees,
to promote our request for donations in support of their cause.

Second, we should continue the end-of-year lunch that Bill Ashby inaugurated
last year to celebrate those Promise Scholars we support. Holly said they were so
excited about attending that event last year. Planning ahead would hopefully attract the
attendance of more Board members.

Third, Holly would like to invite all Emeriti Faculty to consider mentoring a
Promise Scholar. There are currently 730 Promise Scholars at UCSB (130 Engineering
students this fall), all of whom are extreme low-income students, and most of whom
are first-generation and underrepresented in higher education. Some, especially those in
their first and second years, would love to connect with Emeriti Faculty to learn about
what research looks like or how to conduct research. Others, especially seniors, would
benefit from advice on applying for jobs, preparing for interviews, or deciding on graduate school. One-on-one meetings between Emeriti Faculty and Promise Scholars might be one option or the formation of a group of Promise Scholars in the same discipline meeting with an Emeritus Professor in that specialty on a regular basis might be another possible scenario. There are certainly other creative ways that our Promise Scholars could benefit from having Emeriti Faculty help them with professional development. Both Claudine Michel and Holly Roose have tried unsuccessfully so far to set up a meeting with Mike Miller, Director, Financial Aid and Scholarships, to discuss this possibility with Muriel and me.

Is the Board willing to approve this concept, with the understanding that we will need to establish an administrative structure with Board members and/or a committee to oversee this activity? The Emeriti Associations at UCSD and UCB provide possible frameworks for such a set-up. UCSD’s Emeriti Mentor Committee makes the initial matches between Emeriti and Chancellor’s Scholars, anticipating that mentors and mentees will meet at least one a month for the first academic year, with oversight by a Leadership Council. UCBEA has a less structured program that presents on its website a list of Emeriti faculty, according to topics of expertise, who are interested in serving as mentors to students and regular faculty of all ranks, with one contact person for students and another for faculty.

Finally, Mary Nesbit is concerned that in the future we ensure that all the funds for the Promise Scholarships that we support are accessible.

From August to early October, Muriel and I met with members that had recently joined our Board (John Gilbert via Zoom, Tom Gerig, Claudine Michel, Stan Awramik – and Oliver Chadwick in later in October).

I will follow up on with an announcement to all UCSB Emeriti once UCLA sends out a call for nominations, usually in October, for the Constantine Panunzio Distinguished Emeriti Award (a $5000 prize), whose final submission date is in February. An announcement will also be made to UCSB Emeriti for Edward A. Dickson Emeriti Professorship Nominations, which offers $25,000. Based on last year, the EVC will not put out a call until April with a May deadline.