

**Committee on Emeriti Relations
Annual Report 1996-97**

To the Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on Emeriti Relations is concerned with the personal and professional welfare of professors emeritae and emeriti.

The 1995-96 Committee developed and sent out a questionnaire, devised mainly by Professor John Pearse, that solicited information on the current situations of professors emeritae/i. The 1996-97 Committee has examined the returned questionnaires but has not yet prepared the summary of findings intended to be shared with all Academic Senate members.

Recently a retired professor reported receipt of a notice of eviction from an office the professor had occupied for years, and requested the Committee's help in retaining it. The 1997-98 Committee is studying the matter and is optimistic that a satisfactory resolution of the problem can be found.

That case brings to attention a long-standing problem of how the University should support the work of professors who continue scholarship or public service activities past retirement. Many are eminent scholars who continue to make distinguished contributions while retired and are engaged in activities strongly encouraged by the University before retirement. Many wish to continue to use office space and other resources needed to support their work.

On the other hand, office space and other resources are sometimes in short supply. Can the University justify awarding resources to retired professors if doing so has the effect of denying those resources to professors in early or mid-career? Obviously contention can arise, and does. It is in the University's interest to find mechanisms for optimum utilization of space and other resources so as not to cut off retired professors.

Scholarly and public service work by retired professors can be regarded as something of a free lunch for the University, for UC gets much of what it most wants from emeritus professors, without having to pay them salary. Undesirable consequences may result from failure to provide them adequate support. Some leave UC to take well-funded positions elsewhere. Also, if professors nearing retirement age see their recently retired colleagues denied support for scholarly work, they may hesitate to retire, requiring continued funding of their salaries.

Intimations of less-than-beautiful attitudes occasionally arise. Some recently retired professors are shocked at the apparent greed of colleagues in wanting to seize their offices. On the other hand, the conceivably low level of scholarly activity by some retired professors may little justify an office. One can fantasize a worst case: an individual who comes in once every two weeks to pick up accumulated mail and sits in the office for half an hour while perusing it. It would be appropriate to have some space set aside for active retired professors to use, and to have a mechanism whereby use of space is regularly reviewed.

It is in the interest of all Academic Senate members that adequate support be provided for scholarly and service work by retired professors. With good fortune, all current members of the Academic Senate will in due time benefit from wise, considerate governance in this area.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON EMERITI RELATIONS

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