

COMMITTEE ON EMERITI RELATIONS
Annual Report 2010-11

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on Emeriti Relations (CER) was active this year—meeting several times each quarter, initiating projects as well as responding to perceived problems.

At the beginning of the academic year 2010-11, CER worked with the Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW) to analyze and comment on changes proposed by the UC President's office to post-employment benefits and health plan costs. The committee also emailed retired faculty to call these proposed changes to their attention and to urge them to attend the Senate meeting at which the changes would be discussed and a formal response formulated.

In Fall quarter, CER had once again to involve itself in an unpopular policy of Transportation Parking Services (TAPS): to charge retired faculty for parking during quarters in which they are recalled to teaching—thus voiding, for this period, the complimentary parking privilege that faculty receive when they retire. In this particular situation, faculty who had not been recalled were erroneously charged for parking—apparently because of bookkeeping errors at the TAPS office. An honor system for parking permit purchases has now been initiated for Emeriti who have been recalled.

In Spring, CER co-sponsored (with the Office of Academic Personnel) a Pre-Retirement Planning Workshop to which all members of the faculty who are considering retirement were invited. A representative from the Office of Academic Personnel and three retired faculty members gave presentations, and an active discussion period followed.

In Spring, CER circulated an Emeriti Survey to retired faculty, which was intended to determine this constituency's central interests and concerns. Of 181 surveys distributed, the committee received 46 replies (a response rate of 25%.) At the end of Spring quarter, CER emailed summaries of the responses to the Emeriti, noting with particular interest that a majority of respondents come to campus at least 2-3 days a week when, in addition to taking advantage of campus facilities and events, they remain involved in activities related to teaching and research. Not surprisingly, the availability of parking across the campus—and at the library specifically—as well as the availability of office space, computer support, and internet resources remain of continuing and substantial importance. CER discussed ways of addressing these concerns with Executive Vice Chancellor Galloway at a meeting in June. She has agreed to look into these problems and the committee will follow up with her in Fall 2011.

Finally, from the beginning of the academic year, CER has worked to determine whether, as a group, Emeriti want to strengthen and extend their formal relation to the university, whether they wish to create innovative projects that include active faculty and members of other constituencies, and whether they are interested in organizing—as Emeriti--outreach efforts to the community. (These questions have particular significance given the fact that faculty retirements will more than double in the next ten years.)

In order to determine the extent to which Emeriti want to define themselves as a discreet group, CER invited them to two open and well-attended, brain-storming sessions—one in Fall quarter and one in Winter. Among those who attended the meetings, there was general support for strengthening formal relations to the University and in forming an Emeriti Resource Center, which would draw its participants from active as well as from retired faculty and from multiple campus and community constituencies. Some projects would be specifically conceptualized with and for the local community. According to the Statement of Purpose that was drafted, participants in the Resource Center would serve “as catalysts, organizing opportunistic and long-range projects that will contribute to interdisciplinary learning, experimental programming, and innovative community outreach.”

In the Spring quarter, several pilot projects were conceptualized and others were initiated. In the summer, additional participants will be recruited by members of CER—specifically for participation on an organizing committee, which will begin meeting in Fall 2011. In the Fall, the nature and content of the website will also be determined—and CER will approach the EVC’s office for help in getting it established. Funding opportunities will be sought through University Relations (ultimately, the Center will need some space and staff support) and efforts will be made to establish productive connections with other university groups. The Executive Vice Chancellor will discuss with the university attorney the route that should be followed to make the Emeriti Resource Center a formal administrative unit.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON EMERITI RELATIONS:

Nancy Chen
Mary Silver
Helene Moglen, Chair
Suresh Lodha, *ex officio*

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