

UCI Emeriti Association
Minutes of the Annual Meeting
June 4, 2013

Call to Order/ Introductions:

President McLaughlin called the meeting to order.

He introduced and thanked Jeri Frederick, Director of the UCI Center for Emeriti and Retirees, and members of the Executive Committee. He noted that Ms. Frederick has been key to keeping all programs and services at UCI for retired faculty and staff moving and progressing.

Ms. Frederick spoke about her appointment seven years ago to create a Center for retired Emeriti and Retirees and how "retired" never quite fit as a term as so many retirees were equally active now as before retiring. Many faculty continue to teach, with and without pay. Many retired staff continue to serve on committees and special projects without compensation. The Center will continue to assisting all of us to remain abreast of changes regarding the great benefits that we all enjoy as retired faculty and staff.

Professor McLaughlin noted that there is always pressure on the retirees medical and benefits plan, a plan that has so many assets that it is the 7th largest in the country. We are all thankful to Interim Vice Chancellor Sue Bryant for assistance to the university stepping in as Interim EVCP and her continuing support of emeriti & retirees. He then introduced Professor Marjorie Caserio as the speaker. She was the second chemist hired at UCI. She chaired the Chemistry Department and was Chair of the Academic Senate during a very controversial time when we were considering situating the Nixon Library at UCI. Marjorie has been the recipient of loads of honors, too numerous to mention here.

Approval of Minutes:

The Minutes of the May UCIEA Meeting were distributed upon entrance to the event. A motion was made and approval was given for the May Minutes.

Approval of By Laws Change:

The Bylaws change document was distributed to all attendees upon entrance to the event. A motion was made and approval given for the Bylaws change(s). The current bylaws will be posted on the website as soon as Charlene Mandau updates that page.

Keynote Address:

Professor Caserio thanked President McLaughlin and the committee for the invitation to speak to the Emeriti Association. This is very meaningful to her since she had started her career at UCI and undertaken so many different roles here. When she first applied the campus at UCI was in the building stage and hiring faculty. Sherry Rowland was Chair of a department on a campus that didn't yet exist. In the sixties California was in a wonderful visionary mode. Edmund Brown was a Governor who saw in the future of California a population explosion of baby boomers. The Master Plan for Higher Education was in full swing offering an affordable education to all segments. Three new campuses were added: Davis, Irvine, and Santa Cruz. Santa Barbara was upgraded from a teaching college. On January 1, 1965, building at UCI was started but not near completion. Professor Caserio was the first woman to be hired. In March of 1965 there were 118 faculty, including Alice Laborde and Isabel Birnbaum. It would be 25 years before another woman professor would be hired. The Women's Movement was not

in place and it was difficult for women at that time. Professor Caserio felt very fortunate to have been hired by Sherry Rowland in 1965. The Daily Pilot penned the name “Entrepreneur Faculty” for UCI’s professors. In 1967 Ronald Reagan was elected Governor of California for the next eight years. He was anti-intellectual and not a friend of the University of California. He thought students were hippies and bums and opposed the Free-Speech Movement. The National Guard was called in during student demonstrations at Berkeley. Tuition was raised and the University’s budget suffered. In 1976 Jerry Brown was elected. He was not highly intellectual and didn’t foster growth. The lack of support and the budget problems didn’t improve for eight years, making it especially difficult for the new UC campuses. As an Assistant Professor, Professor Caserio had to shuffle requirements of her research programs, teaching, and family life raising two children. Despite these difficulties, she was given tenure eight years later. The Women’s Movement had begun to take hold. Every committee wanted a token woman. She had to be careful not to be overwhelmed and found it rewarding to step outside her own profession and experience the broad horizon the campus offered. She was elected to serve on the Academic Senate’s Academic Personnel Committee and was appointed Chair of the Academic Senate, both rewarding experiences. During this time, Garland Parten and Marilyn Soley were the mainstay of the Senate Office. During Professor Caserio’s tenure in office, the Nixon Foundation proposed that the Nixon Library be on the UCI campus. President Nixon had resigned in 1980 and Chancellor Aldrich was anxious for the library to be at UCI. However, representing the faculty of UCI, Professor Caserio had to see that this action was not taken unilaterally. The Academic Senate held Town Meetings several times and subsequently voted against locating the Nixon Library at UCI. Finally in 1983, the Nixon Foundation withdrew its offer because the faculty did not approve. Professor Caserio noted that if the campus was then what it is now, the offer would have been accepted.

Discussing the Universitywide Academic Senate, Professor Caserio stated that the campuses all report to the Office of the President, the Office of the President reports to the Regents but the Regents do not control the curriculum. The faculty is in total control of the curriculum through its Representative Assemblies and the Academic Council. The management of the National Laboratories comes up at times and is an emotional issue. The Regents must be consulted on these issues. When the Board was considering divesting UC from companies that do business in South Africa because of its apartheid policy, the Regents had to be protected from demonstrators and escorted from meetings.

When Professor Caserio had been Chair of the UCI Chemistry Department for several years she was offered the position of Vice Chancellor at UC San Diego. Because she lacked more administrative experience, the offer came to her as a surprise. But she accepted the offer and was appointed. The year 1990 was a difficult time for the state and was particularly hard on UC San Diego whose State budget had faded away. There were three consecutive VERIPS and she found herself having to undo some of the wonderful things that had been academically created. The School of Architecture closed. Insurance couldn’t be paid for. She persisted but said she wouldn’t recommend that job to anyone with its day-to-day responsibility for all the academic operations, personnel, medical school programs, and the Institute of Oceanography. David Gardner, the President of the University, resigned and Jack Peltason was appointed President during this time.

Professor Caserio was appointed Interim Chancellor at UC San Diego, an enjoyable time in many ways. She showed a picture of herself taken in 1995 at the dedication of UC San Diego's Eleanor Roosevelt College with Hilary Clinton, the grandson of Mrs. Roosevelt, and Newt Gingrich.

She noted that CUCEA has an important role as its representatives interact closely with the Office of the President regarding benefits for emeriti.

Two years ago in 2010 Chuck Young, former UCLA Chancellor, discussed the future of the University. He was concerned about the devastating cuts in State support, escalating student fees and tuition. He thought Chancellors in retirement would have influence on the President and the Regents even if they couldn't speak directly to the Regents. He talked about privatization, to break away from the University as such so that Berkeley would have autonomy. They would have their own Board of Regents. State support has dropped to such a level that the only way we can continue to function is to raise student fees. Those who can, pay, those who can't pay, don't. Raise the fees as high as they can but make the State cover student aid. The idea went to President Yudof but never got to the Regents.

Proposition 30 passed which means more revenue for the State. But there are clouds ahead. Governor Brown was critical of the amount of time faculty spend teaching versus research (which we all know is so very important to intellectual as well as the world advancement) and he is very interested in on-line education. The question is: Can UC continue to be the great public university to which we have been privileged to be part?

Awards:

Professors John Hipp, Judy Olson and Jodi Quas were awarded the 2013 UCIEA Outstanding Faculty Mentoring Awards and each shared a few remarks.

Professor Rein Taagepera was congratulated as the recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Emeritus Award. He commented that his late wife, Dr. Mara Taagepera, was an inspiration to him and deserved recognition as well for her continued service and role in the Estonian liberation movement for independence. He reflected on the current climate and noted that the key question once one is free is: What shall we do with this freedom?

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Garland Parten