UCI Emeriti Association Executive Committee Meeting Minutes - December 11, 2014

Call to Order: The meeting of the executive committee was called to order by President Bill Parker at 10 AM in Room C of the University Club. Those present included Judy Horn, Ron Miller, Marianne Schnaubelt, George Miller, Jen Yu, Peggy Maradudin, Marilyn Soley, Dick Frank, Pamela Lawrence, Barbara Hamkalo, Cal McLaughlin, Jeri Frederick, and Keith Nelson.

Minutes: The minutes of the Executive Committee's meeting of November 13, 2014, were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Stu Krassner reported by e-mail that the Association's financial situation "remains good", since dues continue to come in. Bill Parker reiterated his suggestion that the Programs Committee "reduce our accounts balance" by scheduling and funding special presentations on the part of distinguished faculty.

President's Notes:
____ Senior Housing -- Bill announced that UCI's agreement with Regents Point has been approved and he displayed a two page flyer announcing this fact. Regents Point is now offering priority consideration to UCI retirees, the parents of current faculty and staff to include a 50% discount on the entrance fee which Bill attributed to Jeri Frederick's negotiating skills. This arrangement removes what has been a significant hurdle to admission, especially for non-homeowners, but it does not reduce the cost of living there. (Actually, the resident's estate gets back the resident's entrance fee on the death of a resident.) Bill was asked whether parents or wives of deceased emeriti would also receive a priority and discount, and he opined that Regents Point would "probably be receptive to the idea".

He further noted that the Inn at the Park is under new ownership and might be a future negotiation for him/Jeri. It has been renamed The Brookdale. The committee signified their encouragement.

____ UC Systemwide -- Bill reported that there are no significant issues currently on the table. The matter of health benefits is settled and there will be no changes in the retirement system. President Napolitano's tuition proposals are "the big thing now". He wishes that the President hadn't claimed there is a connection between the money requested and the needs of the University's retirement system, since this only invites tinkering by the legislature.

Communications Committee: Keith Nelson noted that the Autumn Emeriti Association Newsletter will be published in January.
Programs Committee:  Barbara Hamkalo submitted a committee report (attached) proposing that the Association establish a quarterly lecture series beginning in the winter. Among the speakers being considered as lecturers are professors Jeffrey Wasserstrom of History (for the winter) and Sandra Singh-Loh of Physics (for the spring). Marianne Schnaubelt wondered if it might not be advantageous to have both the emeriti and retirees sponsor this series, and the executive committee seemed very receptive, both to this idea and to the speaker series in general. Jeri intends to put out a flyer advertising these lectures.

The annual reception for the Chancellor will be held on May 5 in one of the ballrooms at the Student Center. It will include a feature highlighting the founding faculty and staff. We will do "tables" again and we will acquire a level in the parking structure for parking.

The Association's annual meeting will be held on June 2. The committee is considering Spencer Olin as a possible speaker.

The committee is also planning a "Welcome to 2015" party in January at the University Club.

Academic Senate:

Retirement Counseling -- Bill is "moderately confident" that the funding is secure for the continuation of retirement counseling on campus. Human Resources sees this counseling as a service to "those yet to retire". It is also recruiting a new position, a Mental Health Care Facilitator.

Senate Awards Committee -- Bill reported that the cabinet of the Academic Senate has agreed to recommend to the Academic Assembly a bylaw amendment allowing the transfer of mentorship awards to the Senate. He suggested that we not issue a call for nominations while this is pending.

UCI Retirees Association:  Marianne Schnaubelt called our attention to the events for winter and spring that are advertised under "Save these Dates!" in the latest publication of the Center for Emeriti & Retirees Newsletter "Connections". She also disclosed that the retirees would like to honor founding faculty and staff at the Chancellor's reception by giving them a special ribbon or name-tag to wear. The executive committee welcomed this proposal.

Center for Emeriti and Retirees (CER):  Jeri Frederick expressed her gratitude at the number of new volunteers and a new work-study student that regularly help her in the Center office. She noted that the Center will be moving at the end of January to an office on the fifth floor of the tower in the mall across from the campus on Campus Drive. The new office will provide us with much more working space for the growing number of volunteers.

Jeri also reported that University Advancement has asked us if we are interested in creating (and co-funding) a
course in "Estate Planning" for retirees. The general sense of the executive committee was that certain aspects of estate planning (creating charitable funds, maximizing tax benefits, devising wills and trusts) would be interesting to us, but that a general eight-module course (as was proposed) would not be. Bill, George and Jeri will discuss the matter further.

OLLI: Peggy Maradudin announced that OLLI's spring catalogue will be out in a week. Enrollment starts on January 5, and she expects a real "jam up". If on-line registration does not work well, it might be best to telephone. In response to a question from Bill Parker about the relationship between OLLI and Extension, Peggy explained that OLLI is "affiliated with UCI through Extension". OLLI is doing more and more partnering with organizations on campus like the Humanities Core Course, but parking and classrooms are always a problem. OLLI's headquarters is presently on Barranca Avenue, but it has had to move into a new office near the Transportation Center. Bill suggested that it might be time for OLLI to seek an audience with the Chancellor and ask for more cooperation, pointing out to him that OLLI helps very much to strengthen the university's tie with the community.

Old Business:
Fiftieth Anniversary volumes are still works in progress: Two months ago Bill saw the draft of the "coffee table volume" that is being prepared and did not find it very personal. He proposed a second volume that would feature interviews with, and essays by, the founding faculty. Apparently personnel from University Advancement and University Communications are now interviewing founding faculty and students as suggested by our committee and the Center.
Ron Miller pointed out that the Emeriti website, now hosted on a new server at http://sites.uci.edu/emeriti/ still needs some updating. We are trying to acquire the documents for administrating the new site and will share those when available.

New Business: None.

Respectfully submitted,

Keith Nelson
Executive Committee Secretary