

UCI Emeriti Association

Fall 2018

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Good news! While the world of politics might seem like a mess, these are relatively positive times for UC Irvine. You probably read Chancellor Gillman's messages about some of the ratings that our campus is garnering. We've moved up to #7 among public universities in the venerable *U.S. News & World Report* rankings, our highest ever. The *New York Times* identifies UCI as the very best university in the US for "doing the most for the American dream." *Money* magazine ranks us as #3 nationally among the best colleges in terms of value for money. And we are also the #1 "Cool School" in the US for our efforts in sustainability, regarding our physical campus, research and teaching, according to *Sierra* magazine.

As emeriti/ae, we have a sound basis to be proud of these rankings, since many of us helped lay the foundations for these scores. Many continue to contribute actively to the missions of the university in research, teaching and service. We worked hard as UCI evolved, always being told that although the resources for all our growth and efforts were less than adequate at the moment, there would be easier times ahead when additional resources were allocated in the future. As we heard this for decade after decade, we still kept producing. And the beat goes on...

Those of you who have moved on to other things in retirement have good justification for that. I hope you are able to engage actively in a life that satisfies. There is considerable empirical evidence that greater engagement with other people and an active lifestyle are strong correlates of a healthier and longer life.

The UCI Emeriti Association has, as its core goal, promoting such opportunities for your engagement with others and an active life. Last year, we defined a set of specific objectives that could increase the engagement of emeriti/ae with the campus. Through meetings with the Deans, and with the support of the Chancellor, Provost, and Academic Senate, substantial progress has been made.

- Our campus now has a Faculty Retirement Liaison, a part-time recall appointment available to provide assistance regarding all aspects of the campus system to those faculty who are retired or are thinking of retiring. The first appointee, Professor Emeritus Bill Parker, explains how he can help you in an article in the next Newsletter.

- Working with the campus, UCI Emeriti Association members now have access to a complimentary parking pilot program for general parking that has been extended for the entire 2018-2019 academic year.

- Several Deans have now implemented a yearly survey to determine emeriti/ae productivity in terms of research, teaching, and service as well as what the emeriti/ae would be willing to do to contribute to the school's efforts, if called upon. All of the Deans are now more sensitive to shining a spotlight on emeriti/ae's accomplishments through their publications.

- The Deans are also examining their policies regarding office space and support services for emeriti/ae who continue to contribute to the school's activities (e.g., recall teaching, mentoring junior faculty or students, research, committee service) and to campus life.

I am currently meeting again with each Dean to discuss where progress has been made in enhancing emeriti/ae engagement and where further opportunities seem to exist. I am encouraged by the interest of most Deans in these ideas and by their willingness to facilitate the visibility and involvement of those emeriti/ae who are active contributors.

In concert with the Center for Emeriti & Retirees (CER) and the UCI Retirees Association (a separate organization for non-academic senate retirees), numerous activities are offered every month. These include tours, local hikes, cooking classes, a golf tournament, lectures, and much more. We also cohost the annual Emeriti & Retirees Reception (October 16th at 1:30 p.m.!) where you can connect with colleagues and throw some provocative questions at Chancellor Gillman. If you are missing your invitation, contact CER at 949-824-7769.

We also continue to be a strong advocate of emeriti/ae benefits and interests in the UC system. We helped mobilize our members and the Academic Senate to challenge an attempt by the Regents to rescind the existing agreement regarding a floor for the amount that retirees pay for health benefits. This pressure resulted in the Regents' backing off and led to the formation of a joint Working Group, with emeriti/ae representation, that is still negotiating the details. Also, under pressure from the Legislature, the Office of the President commissioned the Huron Consulting Group to look for ways to reduce the size of OP's budget and staffing. Some of the Huron Report's proposals seem inappropriate and could affect emeriti/ae, if indirectly, and we've been part of those responding to OP regarding what makes sense.

Now for the bad news. UCI has about 500 emeriti/ae. The current paid membership of the UCI Emeriti Association is 95. We are a volunteer organization that relies on dues to cover many of our operating costs. My salary is \$0. The combined salaries of the 16 person UCIEA Executive Board, which meets monthly and develops policies and programs, is \$0. Alexis de Tocqueville suggested that one of the defining characteristics of the American experiment in democracy is our willingness to join (and contribute effort and funds to) organizations, especially volunteer organizations.

Some of our emeriti/ae live far away. But most of you live close to campus. And all of you benefit in some ways from the work of UCIEA. Thank you (truly) to those of you who have paid your dues in support of our organization. Yet most of you are what economists call "free riders." I ask you to consider submitting the modest amount of dues to help UCIEA function now, during our annual membership drive. We now enable you to join (or rejoin) online and to pay dues online in the same way you pay for other goods and services. Here is the website: <http://connect.uci.edu/UCIEADues>. You may also print out the membership form attached and send it with a check. Please consider joining UCIEA this year.

And please keep being active with friends and, if you are so inclined, with the campus.

As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions, queries and participation.



Jim Danziger President, UCI Emeriti Association

DUES SUPPORT for FY 2018 - 2019

Please send this page in with your dues. Thank you for your participation.

Fill in contact information below **ONLY if it is DIFFERENT than that to which we mailed.**

Name: _____

Address : _____

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Dues Contribution: 1 Year _____ \$30 10 Years _____ \$275
 3 Years _____ \$80 Lifetime _____ \$500

Suggestions for programs, topics for discussion, etc...: _____

Please make checks payable to:

UCI Emeriti Association –or- UCIEA

Please mail to: c/o: UCI Center for Emeriti & Retirees (you may use “CER”)

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