

Campus Connections

Joint Newsletter of the UC Davis Emeriti Association and UC Davis Retirees' Association

Vol 4, No. 2

Winter 2013

Options being explored for future UC health care benefits

C. E. Hess, Chair, UCDEA Emeriti Welfare Committee

Last year, UC Office of the President established the Health Care Benefits Work Group (HCBWG) charged with finding ways to continue to deliver high-value health and welfare benefits programs while controlling their costs. The work group explored possible changes to decrease premium costs in view of UC budgetary pressures. I will list and briefly explain the changes being considered.

1. **Changing the design of benefit programs**—would involve reducing the number of health care plans available to retirees and employees from 13 to three or four. This change would mean that one might have to change one's primary care provider if he or she were not in one of the selected plans.
2. **Reducing, by steps, UC contributions towards active employee benefits**—would involve extending the plan already in effect for UC retirees. According to the current plan there will be an annual 3% reduction in the university's contribution to health care premiums for retirees until a 70% floor is reached. The proposal being considered would similarly reduce UC contributions for active employees.
3. **Extending the Health Exchange model of plan provision, a provision of "Obamacare"**—involves using a private entity to manage health care premiums for the university. There is considerable skepticism on the part of Councils of UC Emeriti and Retiree Associations about the ability of such an entity to be cost effective. There is

also concern about the quality of the service provided by third party vendors compared to that currently provided by UC's own service center. Initially, the university will explore using the Health Exchange model on a limited basis to serve retirees who move out of state or live in areas not covered by existing health care plans.

4. **Reducing part-time employees' eligibility for benefits**—involves reducing or not providing health care benefits for part-time employees.
5. **Decreasing or eliminating UC contributions for dependents' benefits**—involves allowing employees only to purchase UC Health Care plans for dependents, but not to have as a benefit a UC contribution

to plan premiums. However, since this option would seriously diminish the university's ability to recruit faculty and staff, it is not likely to be implemented.

6. **Discounting employee benefit costs at UC medical centers**—involves an exploration of having the UC medical centers be the primary source of health care for UC employees and retirees. This approach will be dependent upon the UC medical centers being willing and financially able to participate in providing discounted health care for UC employees and retirees.

I will continue to provide updates on the workgroup's explorations of these options in future issues of *Campus Connections*.

UCDEA/UCDRA Winter Meeting

Thursday, February 14, 2013

MIND Institute in Sacramento*

Mix and Mingle/Partner Showcase 2 – 2:30 p.m.
Program 2:30 – 4 p.m.

Professor Stephen Robinson
Mechanical and Aeronautical Engineering

**"Heavy construction made weightless:
Building the International Space Station"**

Professor Robinson, a NASA astronaut for 17 years, will show spectacular photos and describe his fourth mission to space, which was the final construction task for the International Space Station in 2010.

*From Davis: take the shuttle bus from Parking Lot 2 (adjacent to the South Entry Parking Structure, south of the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts). Register to ride the bus by Tuesday, February 5, online at <http://retireecenter.ucdavis.edu> or by calling (530)752-5182.

UC DAVIS

RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

Retirees' Association Executive Board Members 2012-2013

Officers

- Gloria Alvarado, President
- Phyllis McCalla, Vice President
- Norma Rice, Secretary
- Diane Mundy, Treasurer
- Bob Halferty, Archivist
- Ted Hillyer
Immediate Past President

Members-at-Large

- Lucy Day (2012-14)
- Lew Dudman (2011-13)
- Micki Eagle (2011-13)
- Don McNary (2011-13)
- Millie Whitehead (2012-14)

Committee chairs

- Sharon Henn, Audit
- Beverly Brooks, By-laws
- Aggie Costantini/John Whitehead
Membership
- Phyllis McCalla, Nominating
- Sandy Filby, Program
(co-chair with UCDEA)
- Vacant, Public Relations
- Vacant, Scholarship

Additional Members

- Barbara Nichols
Retiree Center Advisory
Committee Representative
(2012-2015), CUCRA Alternate
Representative
- Deanna Falge Pritchard
CUCRA Representative

UCDRA Treasurer's Report

Bank of America checking account	
Balance forward 9/2012	<u>\$18,661.45</u>
Credits	3,480.00
Debits	<u>3,430.63</u>
Closing balance 12/2012	<u>\$18,710.82</u>

A Note from the President



The beginning of a new year gives each of us some time for reflection on the past and the opportunity to think about and make plans for the future. This year I am reflecting on my time working with UC Davis retirees and what we still need to accomplish. I have had the opportunity to see many changes over the years, such as the growth of the UC Davis Retirees' Association to over 800 dues-paying members, the establishment of the Retiree Center, and the official recognition of retiree and emeriti associations by the Regents. Executive board members and other retirees have participated in numerous activities, programs,

classes, tours and day trips.

Recently, we have enjoyed activities such as noon time lectures, the annual benefits meeting, and the holiday luncheon. Your association's executive board has advocated for causes that are important to retirees and has participated in efforts that support the campus. The coming year will find us enjoying new activities and, more importantly, learning more about how we can better serve others.

Promoting retiree welfare is the core of what we strive to do as an association. We have fun and learn from our many activities, but giving to others is vitally important to us. Our service efforts will be clearly defined in the long-range planning process in which the board is now engaged. When it is completed, we hope to have a plan that prepares our association to provide even better service to retirees in the future.

Gloria Alvarado, President, UCDRA

UCDRA President Appointed Chair of "Pepper Spray Incidents" Review Committee

Chancellor Linda Katehi has appointed UC Davis Retirees' Association President Gloria Alvarado as chair of the Review Committee on Post-Incident Reforms. Formed in early November 2012, the committee is charged to "engage in a rigorous and independent evaluation of our progress on recommendations issued in the wake of the Nov. 18, 2011 pepper spray incidents." The panel of 18 members includes Lois Wolk and Mariko Yamada, state senate and assembly members from Davis; Joe Krovoza, Davis mayor; and representatives of the Academic Senate and other UC Davis constituent and student organizations.

Discussing her appointment, Ms Alvarado said, "It will be a privilege to work with the other members of the committee. During my career at UC Davis and the UC Davis Health System, the investigative aspects of my work were always particularly fascinating. I look forward to the opportunity to analyze the recommendations and to help ensure that they become part of the culture and policy of the campus."

The committee met in December 2012. It has been asked to submit a draft report by March 31 and a final report by June 30. The report will be made public.

UC DAVIS

EMERITI ASSOCIATION

A Note from the President

Life in the Retirement Lane: When I talk with my retired friends who are academic colleagues from other campuses around the country, I am reminded how well off we are as emeritus and emerita faculty in the UC system. As one illustration, many retired faculty on other campuses do not have anything comparable to the health care insurance coverage that we have. And many of those who do have insurance protection are required to pay for much of it from their own funds.

One of the important things that the UC Davis Emeriti Association (UCDEA) does for the retired members of the faculty is that it advocates for them. The Association looks out for the interests of retired faculty. The UCDEA, along with emeriti organizations on the other UC campuses, has a voice at the table when it comes to the matter of retirement benefits. It is, in fact, a respected voice and it has been effective in preserving the retirement benefits that we have earned. This voice is especially important in these recent times when budgets everywhere are being squeezed and there can be a temptation to look for economies by reducing pension and benefit costs. (See "Health Care Benefits" on page 1)

This advocacy, though just one part of the UCDEA mission, is a very important part. I hope that you will see it as a return on your investment through your membership. If you have colleagues who are not yet members, please consider asking them to join.

John Vohs, president, UCDEA



Bio-bibliographic Survey: an Inventory of Emeriti Contributions

How are emeriti faculty currently contributing to the mission of the University of California? Let us count the ways. It has been three years since an inventory/survey of this kind has been done, so a new survey was launched in December. The information gained from past studies has been very effective in helping emeriti advocates work to preserve the post-employment

benefits of retired faculty. If enough emeriti respond, this survey can be similarly effective.

If you have already responded to this survey, thank you. If you have not yet gotten around to completing it, please do it now. You are serving your own interests when you do so. The link to the online survey: <http://ucbiosurvey.questionpro.com>.

UC Davis Retirees Attend National Retirement Conference

The tenth anniversary conference of the Association for Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROE) was held at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, Oct. 21-24. The conference theme, "Innovations

for the Next Decade," was developed through an impressive array of presentations and concurrent sessions, including 54 speakers and contributors. There were 122 registered. See "National Retirement Conference" page 4

Emeriti Association Executive Board Members 2012-2013

Officers

John Vohs, President
CUCEA Representative
Lyn Lofland, Vice President
Peter Hays, Secretary
Tom Sallee, Treasurer
Jo Anne Boorkman, Archivist
Bill Rains
Immediate Past President

Members-at-Large

Richard Plant (2012-14)
Retiree Center Advisory
Committee Representative
(2012-14)
Joel Dobris (2011-13)

Committee chairs

Alan Jackman/Bob Smiley
Committee on Committees
Al Harrison
Awards and Recognition
Charley Hess, Emeriti Welfare
Nora McGuinness, Editorial
Bob Flocchini
Program and Agenda
(co-chair with UCDDA)
Dick Walters, Membership
Charles Lacy
University and Public Relations
Bill Breidenbach/Alex McCalla
Video Records

UCDEA Treasurer's Report

Bank of America checking account	
Bal. forward 9/2012	\$16,277.61
Credits	4,080.47
Debits	<u>577.13</u>
Closing balance 12/2012	<u>\$19,780.95</u>

Dr. Eldridge Moores named 2012-13 UC Davis Distinguished Emeritus Professor



The UC Davis Emeriti Association is pleased to announce the conferral of the title of Distinguished Professor Emeritus on Eldridge Moores of Geology. This title is awarded on the basis of outstanding contributions following retirement in the traditional areas of teaching, research, and service. Past recipients include Wayne Thiebaud, professor emeritus of art; Charles E. Hess, professor emeritus of plant science; and Alex McCalla, professor emeritus of agricultural and resource economics.

Since his retirement in 2003, Professor Moores served four years as vice president of the International Union of Geological Sciences, and circled the globe 16 times over to encourage international cooperation in the earth sciences and the sustainable use of resources. He served as a member of the UC President's Science and Mathematics Initiative; helped establish an

earth science program at Napa College; and has informed international, national and regional officials, as well as the public, about hazards including earthquakes, landslides, floods and tsunamis. He is engaged in a multi-year effort supported by the National Science Foundation and the Geological Society of America to increase offerings in geoscience nationwide. Dr. Moores' scholarly accomplishments since retirement include publishing the second edition of his co-authored textbook *Structural Geology*, and his co-edited popular science book, *Bedrock: Writings on the Wonders of Geology*, listed as one of the five best science books in centuries. He has given many lectures to academics and the public and is the recipient of numerous awards

The Distinguished Emeritus Award includes a monetary recognition and acknowledgement at the Chancellor's Faculty Luncheon.

UCDEA/UCDRA Noon Talks

- Noon Talk: Nurses and the U.S. health care system of tomorrow
- Date: Thursday, March 14
- Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. (talk begins at noon)
- Location: Buehler Alumni Center, AGR Hall, UC Davis
- Speaker: Dr. Deborah Ward (Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing)

Who are the nurses for 2020? How are they educated, and what responsibilities do they bear? Can you count on them for the care you need? And what would Florence Nightingale think?

- Noon Talk: Hip Hop in the Academy in the Age of Obama
- Date: Thursday, April 11
- Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. (talk begins at noon)
- Location: Buehler Alumni Center
- Speaker: Professor Halifu Osumare, (African American and African Studies Program)

What is "hip hop" and how is it changing our culture? Surprising research!

Advocacy for Health Care Facilitator Funding

See the story on the website: <http://ucdra.ucdavis.edu/files/ccW13addendum.pdf>

National Retirement Conference, continued from page 3

participants at the conference, 21 of whom came from UC.

The UC Davis delegation consisted of Sue Barnes, Retiree Center Director and incoming AROHE president for 2013 and 2014; Diane Mundy, UCDRA representative; and Deanna Falge Pritchard, representing CUCRA. Following the conference Diane Mundy was elected treasurer for 2013 and 2014.

Deanna prepared a detailed report for CUCRA with précis of the keynote addresses and a list of topics for other sessions. She notes that special emphasis was given to changing interests of

future retirees, investments, fraud, and establishing local or regional consortia of academic retiree organizations.

Sue Barnes prepared a two-page report for CUCRA on Retiree Organization Best Practices, based on ideas presented at the conference. UCDRA board members found the statement both interesting and potentially useful as a source of ideas for future initiatives here. See for yourself, and let the UCDRA board know if you'd like to work on any of the practices Sue lists; the document may be found at <http://ucdra.ucdavis.edu/files/Retiree-OrganizationBestPractices.pdf>

In Memoriam

We remember these members who have died in recent months.

Retirees' Association
Charlotte Burton

Emeriti Association
Louise Bachtold
Robert Pearl

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