# California State University, Los Angeles Emeriti Association

**Emeriti Center, Administration 815**

**California State University, Los Angeles**

**5151 State University Drive**

**Los Angeles, CA 90032**

# Minutes of the November 2006 Meeting

**Date:               November 9th, 2006**

**Place:              Administration 815**

**Time:** Meeting called to order: 12:30 p.m.

**Present:** P. Brier, H. Cadenas, J. Casanova, H. Cohen, W. Darrough, D. Dewey, J. Fisher-Hoult, J. Hoyt, J. Johnson**,** K. Johnson, L. Mathy, L. Negrete, V. Potter, L. Schwartz, B. Sinclair, F. Stahl, W. Taylor, H. Villarreal

**Absent:**M. Friedman, H. Goldwhite, D. Margaziotis, R. Marshall.

**1.0                Announcements**

Lou said that Rosemarie, Demetrius and Janet contacted him to say that they would be unable to attend the meeting.

He then announced that he has been invited to a meeting later that day with Connie Corley (OLLI Director) and Alice Kawakami (University Librarian). They are going to discuss the possibility of forming a coalition or some sort of joint program involving the Library, the Friends of the Library and the Emeriti Association to support OLLI. The meeting was set for 3:30 in the Librarian’s office. Lou asked anyone who would like to participate to attend with him. Peter said that he would attend.

Lou announced that the Dec 14th meeting would be at Villa Gardens in Pasadena hosted by the generous Ken Phillips and that members should have received an invitation directly from Ken. Harold complained that he had missed the Tuesday meeting in October because he left the September meeting early and was unaware of the change. He suggested that Secretary Bill Darrough send an email to all members of the committee informing them of any change in meeting time or place. (In fact, Bill did email notice of the change along with an announcement of the Gormly Exhibit shortly after the September meeting.) Lou reminded everyone to arrive by 11:30 so that we would have time for lunch before our meeting.

Finally, Lou reported that he had been invited to “A National Salute to Bob Hope and the Military” that had already been held in San Diego.

Leon announced that John Kirchner (Geography) and Alfred Bendixen, Betty Bamberg and Carl Selkin (English) were granted emeriti status in October. Ivan Cury (Broadcasting) was granted emeritus status in November. Leon also said that he met with Kenneth Pratt (History). Ken recently had a stroke and is in a wheelchair. Leon also met with Kazumitzu Kato (Japanese) who expressed interest in teaching an OLLI course. Leon passed the information on to Peter.

Lou and the Committee welcomed Barbara Sinclair back. Barbara reported that the Los Angeles County Commission on Aging is undertaking a needs assessment of seniors. It is supported by the Board of Supervisors and will continue through January. Barbara suggested that the Association consider participating. She said that the questionnaire is four pages in length, or two back-to-back. Joan suggested including the questionnaire as an insert in the next edition of *The Emeritimes* that will come out in early January. Don Dewey said that if Barbara could send a short email to Ted Anagnoson it might be possible to get a short note about the survey in the next issue of *The Reporter.* Joan agreed to take responsibility for the insert in coordination with Barbara.

Frieda reported that she received an urgent phone call from Janet about a serious problem she uncovered with the scholarships: there are three sets of conflicting records, all demanding that the Association make up the difference from our treasury. The worst one demands over $3,000. Janet said that it was very important that the Association Scholarship Committee meet with the university scholarships/fiscal representatives to straighten out the matter as soon as she returns to town.

Janet also said that she tried to contact Carol Smallenburg without success before she left town and requested that someone check up on her. Frieda said that she would try to contact Carol.

Don reported that he just received an email from former colleague Sam McSeveneywho asked in behalf of Don Kommers, who left here for Notre Dame, about Stan Hopper. Don was able to inform Sam that Stan is living, although now in Palmdale. He added that the Navy is still trying to put Sam’s son Dan, a Navy flier on the ground in Iraq. Dan is still in California and a lawsuit is pending.

**2.0                Approval of Agenda**

Leon and Harold Cohen asked to have their reports moved up in the agenda since they would have to leave before the end of the meeting. The agenda was m/s/p as amended.

**3.0          Approval of Minutes of October 10th, 2006.**

Don and others offered a host of corrections to the minutes that had been distributed at the last minute. Joe suggested that the changes be made and the minutes be approved at the December meeting when all members will have had time to review them. It was m/s/p that the October and November minutes be approved at the December meeting.

1. **Officer and Committee Reports and Recommendations**

**4.1      President:  Lou Negrete**

Lou said that he had been encouraged by a few members of the Executive Committee to develop a master calendar for the year that would specify the dates of Committee meetings and other Association events. Joan said that she would help develop a draft and bring it to the next meeting so that it could be fine-tuned. Joe suggested that the calendar would be just a guideline and not commit the Association rigidly to hold events on specific dates.

**4.2       Past President:  Barbara Sinclair**

No report.

**4.3       Vice President - Administration:  Harold Goldwhite**

Not present/no report.

**4.4**     **Vice President - Programs:  Herminia Cadenas**

Not present/no report.

**4.5 and 4.6 Fiscal Affairs Chair: Bill Taylor and Joe Casanova**

Joe suggested that the Committee consider his request that we consider a dues increase. When it was noted that the matter is on the agenda under Old Business, Joe suggested that it be dealt now insofar as Bill Taylor would be leaving the meeting early and should be present for the discussion. He distributed two documents: a “Summary of CSULA Emeriti Budgets, Actual Revenues and Expenditures. 1998-2005, and “Emeriti Membership 2007 and its Effect on Possible Dues Increase.” (Both Attached)

Joe first called attention to the Summary. He noted that there was an increase in income of approximately 15% over that period of time. Joe noted that most of that increase came from gifts rather than dues. In terms of expenditures, Joe noted that the cost of producing *The Emeritimes* has increased significantly over the period. The most significant increase in expenditure for the Association, however, has been the fellowship program. As a result of the increased expenditures, Joe noted that the Association’s checkingaccount balance has declined from over $1,300 dollars to $285.

Working with membership data provided by Harold Cohen, Joe estimated that a dues increase of $5 would yield $370 while a $10 increase would yield $740. Out of 289 non-life members only 66 are paid up through 2007. The website currently lists 300 members. The bottom line is that we can expect between a $400 and $650 increase with a $5 or $10 dollar increase in dues for the recurring membership categories. Joe suggested, however, that the real problem is the number of emeriti who are not paying members of the association. He then called for a brief discussion.

Bill Darrough observed that it was unfortunate that we were having the discussion without Demetrius, who had identified this problem and called for the Committee to consider why so few emeriti were joining the Association and to reconsider our statement of mission. Joe agreed and said that he would inform Demetrius that his report supports Demetrius’s analysis of the problem.

Joe again called attention to the fact that only 66 non-life members have paid dues through 2007. Even though some of those checks will be coming in late, he said, we have only two ways of dealing with the problems we face: 1) we can increase our dues to solve the monetary problems we are confronting or 2) we can increase the number of paying members, i.e. the number of emeriti who are joining the Association.

Harold said that one of the things that did induce some people to become paying members was that we inform them that we would not list any of their contact information on the website unless they were current members. He estimated that about 5% of the members who are not current on their dues send them in when sent a letter reminding them of that fact.

Joe characterized that as a “threat response,” or punitive action similar to a threat to stop sending *The Emeritimes* to persons who don’t send in their checks. He proposed that such actions might send us into a downward spiral that we would like to avoid.

Lou noted that Demetrius suggested that we examine the connection between the dues and what the emeriti receive in return for the dues and that we consider revising the Association’s mission statement.

Barbara suggested that the reason we are seeing this “diminished bottom line” is that a few years ago it was decided that we had too much money in the account and, therefore, the money should go to the scholarship fund. Since the current fiscal pinch was caused by that shift in fiscal priorities, Barbara said we might want to consider whether that goal should be a part of the mission.

Don said that if we are not in a hurry, he might have some helpful information from CSU ERFA by February. They have raised their dues. He noted that one worthy member of that organization from Humboldt actually computed what he should have paid over time if the dues had been raised earlier and sent in a check for that amount. That more than offset the few people who resigned when dues were raised.

Don said that some opponents of a dues increase have argued that some members will resign in protest when dues are increased even if they are informed that the increase will not apply to them, but only tonew members. He said this is an argument made by those who are opposed to all of the changes that CSU ERFA has made in the past year, and that by February he should have some hard evidence about what effect the dues increase had had on membership.

Don suspected that a raise of $10 would not make a difference to people who were interested in the organization while there are people out there who would not join if the dues were lowered to $5.

Harold Cohen recommended that we agendize the discussion of this matter for a future meeting. He recommended that we spend a significant amount of time, or an entire meeting, discussing the matter. He asked members of the committee to come up with ideas about how to induce existing members, who are not current, to maintain their membership. Joe suggested that Harold was actually suggesting a retreat whether we conduct it on campus or at the Yacht Club in Long Beach. He further recommended that it should be done apart from a regular meeting. It was agreed that the issues of dues, the Association’s mission and the way we “market” the Association are interrelated and should be dealt with thoroughly.

Joe asked if Harold was recommending that we hold off further discussion about the issue until a future date. Don said that this was a matter of concern for Ken Phillips and suggested that he would be pleased if we raised it at the December meeting that Ken will host.

Harold asked if Karen had a letter that she sends to members who fail to pay their dues. She said that she does, but did not send it out last year. She said that it should be going out at the latest by early December. There are actually three letters sent, depending upon the circumstances.

Joan contended that the matter was not urgent, as any raise in dues could only be implemented in the next fiscal year. Don added that it would have to be acted on at the May meeting. Joan said that she would like to see the letters that Karen sends so that she could see what they actually say. She also suggested that we look at the Constitution to see what it says about what the mission really is. She said that the information provided by Joe is helpful and that we should look at it in conjunction with these other issues. We need to look at the website and *The Emeritimes* as benefits for our members.

Joe then moved to postpone action on these matters pending a retreat. There was a consensus that the retreat should be scheduled for January or February. Harold Cohen argued that the retreat should be scheduled early enough so that the entire membership would have a chance to vote on the matter but was informed that a vote of members present at the May membership meeting **is** all that is necessary. He questioned the fairness of such a vote.

Joe supported the plan for a retreat early next year but went on to recommend that the matter be on the agenda for the December meeting for at least a brief discussion. There was also a suggestion that the retreat could be planned at the December meeting. It was m/s/p that the matter appear on the agenda for the December meeting and that a retreat to discuss these matters in detail be held in January or February. Joe said that he would send copies of his two documents to Ken prior to the December meeting and then call to bring him up to date.

Bill Taylor then distributed the Treasurer’s report. He reported that the share certificate came due last month. At the last meeting the Committee entrusted Bill and Joe with the decision how to reinvest the share certificate. After discussion they moved the funds into another one-year share certificate. The interest rate was 3.98% on the last one and now it is 5.27%.

Don said that CSU ERFA had encountered a problem with their accounting practices that he hoped we could avoid. He reported that Linda Zimmerman**,** the office manager, fought for the better part of a year to get back $29,000 that the state seized from a CD. CSU ERFA had regularly rolled it over and over, but at some point the state decided the funds were inactive, claiming that rolling over is not sufficient. Don suggested that the next time that Bill or Joe are in touch with the Credit Union, they discuss this matter and ask how this can happen and what can be done to prevent it. Don said that the good news was that CSU ERFA got the money back but that they were never able to determine exactly why it happened. Joe responded that the money was not simply rolled over; it was rolled over with the interest pulled out leaving just $10,001 dollars in the account. Joe argued that that is enough action to prevent the funds from being declared inactive. He agreed to check on the matter the next time he was in touch with the credit union.

Harold Cohen said that another way to protect the money from being identified as inactive is to close the account each year and put the funds in a new and different account. Don speculated that the Credit Union would be very cooperative in order to avoid the frequent paper work that closed accounts might entail.

**4.6a     Historian/Archivist: Leon Schwartz**

Leon reported that the archives located on the 8th floor would remain where they are instead of being moved to the basement.

**4.6b CSU ERFA Council Reps.: Harold Goldwhite, Leon Schwartz and Barbara P. Sinclair**

Leon reported that the Council met on October 14th. Rita Jones invited persons interested in teaching in Perm, Russia during the spring of 2007 to get in touch with her at Long Beach State. Mark Shapiro, the new Webmaster, discussed five reasons to support the website. Joe suggested that Leon email his notes on this matter to Demetrius, who might find them useful. Leon agreed to send them.

The five reasons to support an organization’s website are:

1. It represents the organization to the world.
2. It facilitates communication with members.
3. It is an extremely valuable recruiting device.
4. It provides links to sources of information on retirement problems.
5. It informs campuses of the organization as a resource.

David Elliot added that the website was an extremely valuable recruiting device.

The interim Editor of *The Reporter*, Iris Shah thanked people for the help they had given her. A new Bylaws Committee was appointed. Bob Kully assured the Council that he could continue to function in spite of his vision problems. Ted Anagnoson was elected unanimously as Editor of *The Reporter*. The Membership Committee reported that they are approaching their goal of 3000. They reported that membership stands at 2926. The goal is quite modest, Leon observed, insofar as it represents only 1/3 of the emeriti who are out there. The local affiliates were encouraged to use their contact persons on each campus to send individualized letters to each retiree.

Don Dewey asked that staff members admitted to local affiliates should be informed that they are eligible to join CSU ERFA. Since the CSULA affiliate is an Emeriti Faculty association, retired CSULA staff members are NOT eligible.

Milt Dobkin proposed that an effort be made to encourage members who move from one campus area to another to participate in the activities of the affiliate in the new area.

Leon said that there was a great deal to report on developments in the area of health, but that he would hold off and finish his report at the December meeting. Don Dewey added that on important issue is that our Long Term Health Plan is not as solvent as we believed. With people living longer and the rise in health care costs, significant changes may be made. He said that he should have more news in time to report at the December meeting.

**4.6c Database Coordinator: Harold Cohen**

Harold reported that three envelopes had been returned stamped “moved with no forwarding address.” He asked for help in getting current information on: 1) Naomi Norton (Home Economics) who lived in Peoria Arizona 2) Pat Shroyer,who last lived in Monterey Park and 3) Gary S. Watson (Business Law) lived in Los Angeles. Vilma said that the English Department would probably have current information on Fred Shroyer’s widow.

* 1. **Fellowship Fund Chair: Janet Fisher-Hoult**

Not present. Frieda discussed her contact with Janet earlier. Joan argued strongly that the Executive Committee needs to understand the nature of the deficit that concerns Janet. Three different offices on campus; the Business Office, Financial Aid and Institutional Advancement have said that the Association owes three different sums of money to cover the recently awarded fellowships. The most recent demand was for an additional $3,000. She said that although we cannot do anything until Janet returns, all members should understand the gravity of the situation. Frieda said that a meeting between our scholarship committee, representatives of the three offices in question and Kyle Button would be called to discuss the matter.

Karen reminded the committee that there had been inquiries at the last meeting about the origin of the Physical Education Scholarship that had been transferred to the Emeriti Association. She reported that Pat and Bob took the train up and that Jackie, Joan and Karen met with them. They learned that an undergraduate scholarship was moved out of the department because the Chair was not managing it. The Scholarship Committee is now revising the criteria for the scholarship. The name of the scholarship will be The Physical Education Emeriti Scholarship.

Frieda said that her scholarship had been mismanaged by Institutional Advancement.. They made a mistake in the amount awarded last year and put the fund in the red. As a result, there will be no award this year. Frieda said that she will be monitoring the management of the scholarship funds very closely from now on and recommended that the Emeriti Association do the same.

**4.8       OLLI:  Peter Brier**

Peter observed that fiscal dyspepsia might bethe *leitmotif* of the afternoon and that it would not differ with regard to his OLLI report. The Osher Lifelong Institute has pulled the rug from under Connie Corley and has decided to suspend commitmentto further support until we get more members in the program.

Osher recently looked at the program and was pleased with the way that Connie has built it up: with emeriti teaching, with many social events, the creation of a community as a foundation for building up the program. They thought all of that was healthy. They did not understand, however, why we have so much teaching going on at satellite stations like senior residences and centers. Peter thought that they had succeeded in justifying the approach taken, that it was necessary to get people friendly to the program before trying to ship them to campus in great numbers.

The bottom line was that Osher required OLLI to have more subscribed members, people who are committed to the program as students. Peter noted that the “membership” is a broad category and could include people who want to join merely to attend social events without taking classes.

Connie is going to take a leave of absence in spring that she will use to try to find alternative sponsorship. She refused to give up the program. Peter said that she has done a very good job of creating a community for OLLI of people who go from one course to another. They bring their friends. It takes time to build something like this.

However, according to Peter, the program is at a crisis stage and he is requesting support. If you are teaching in the program, please do so. He said that for the foreseeable future, such teaching will probably be without remuneration. People will have to teach out of the love of teaching. About fifty to sixty percent of the institutes established by Osher do not pay their faculty and that seems to be the trend. Once you become involved in OLLI, Peter observed, the money becomes secondary. He asked if that had been true for those who had been teaching in the program and they agreed.

He also recommended that we become members of OLLI and help recruit new members. Anyone can join for a $25 fee. He added that Connie has a strong fall program in place; the spring program is in the planning stages. She is already constructing a program for fall, 2008. Peter said that they have more and more people interested and that they need more people to teach classes. There will be another review of the program in a few months and he urged the committee to help him increase membership in OLLI.

In the last few months, Connie has been using some student volunteers in the program. There are quite a few students, especially in Social Work and Education, who are very interested in OLLI and are both doing internships and performing research. One of these interns is working on the membership problem.

Joan asked if there is comparative data on membership levels in OLLI programs on other campuses. Peter said that the data is now being collected and Barbara replied that some of the other programs have been in place for much longer periods of time are much larger with differences of hundreds of members. She explained that part of the difference is due to a misunderstanding of the category of “corporate membership” where you paid a higher fee but then your people could attend OLLI eventsversus individual memberships. Osher is looking for individual members even though we had quite a few corporate members. Peter explained that Connie went out and sold corporate memberships to some large senior residences so that then their residents could attend OLLI events. For example, about 15 persons who attended the Kubal Lecture this year were from one of these senior residential centers. Peter observed that such participation establishes a connection between the community and the university.

Barbara mentioned that Connie Corley and DeanBea Yorker will meet with Mary Bitterman, President of the Osher Foundation, at the end of November, so we should have some new information by the December meeting. She and Peter said that President Rosser is becoming more involved and hoped that he could help. Peter said that another possibility is to promote OLLI through the Alumni Association. Peter then distributed information on the coming OLLI classes and invited members of the committee to become members of OLLI.

Don Dewey said that he was the first one to meet with Connie Corley when OLLI first came to campus. He admits that he was skeptical at the start because of the numbers they were looking for. He then asked Peter if he was aware of the connection between OLLI and extended education at UCLA. Don said that he always saw advertisements for the program at UCLA regularly on KCET and the link between the two programs is always emphasized. He recommended that Connie check on that situation at UCLA. Peter and Barbara said that has already been discussed.

**4.10     Corresponding Secretary: Marilyn Friedman**

Not present/no report.

**4.11     Membership Secretary: Karen Johnson**

No report.

**4.12     Webmaster: Demetrius Margaziotis**

Not present/no report.

* 1. **Database Coordinator: Harold Cohen**

Reported earlier.

**4.14     Secretary: William Darrough**

No report.

**4.15     Emeritimes Editorial Chair: Frieda Stahl**

Frieda reported that she has many items for the coming issue.

The obituaries include Evelyn Malkin Barclay (Nursing). For that she received information from Barbara and Marilyn. She is still seeking information on Gerald R. Rasmussen (Education). As for spouses, there are two: Adeline, the wife of David Bilovsky, and Hillard Kravits, husband of Ellen (Music). Frieda said that they would also have to do an “Also Remembered” listing for Ellenore C. Takeda (Library) because nobody at the Library has any information on her.

Frieda has received a column from Lou and expects a dispatch fromBob Zahary about his travels in the Middle East. She also has items from Peter and Ellen and an article by Don on the rededication of Salazar Hall. Janet has submitted an article on the fellowship winners that could not be finished in time for the last issue. She also has had an interesting encounter with someone who won an Emeriti Fellowship in Rehabilitation in 1995. She will either write that up as a separate item or incorporate it into the article on this years’ winners. Finally, there are exceptional photos from the Gormly exhibit and Frieda will use as many as she can fit in. Frieda said that if anyone wishes to look at the pictures she would forward them. She already sent them to Demetrius for the website.

Joan asked if the OLLI membership request might be included as in insert in *The Emeritimes.* Peter said that he had written about OLLI and thought about the membership drive but did not want to combine the two things. Joan suggested that we might do a special mailing to emeriti in the local area with a blurb on OLLI written by Peter and an invitation to join. Peter thought it was a very good idea and will discuss it with Connie.

Frieda said that she was waiting for a response to an email she sent Lupe asking her for a ballpark attendance figure for the October event (the Gormly reception). She said that she wanted to include a note in *The Emeritimes* on the success of the event, and that one measure of the success of an event is the level of attendance. There was a consensus that at least 60 had attended the reception.

* 1. **CSULA Academic Senate: Don Dewey**

Don reported that the establishment of theCommittee on Grants and Research as a standing committeewas approvedat the most recent and very short meeting of the Senate.It was made a standing committee of the Senate rather than a subcommittee of FPC. The CGR, in turn, may establish one year or ad hoc committees to deal with grant issues as they **arise**.

**4.17     CSU Academic Senate: Harold Goldwhite**

Not present/no report.

* 1. **CSU ERFA Council Reps.: Harold Goldwhite, Leon Schwartz and Barbara P. Sinclair**

Leon reported earlier.

1. **Unfinished Business**
   1. **Consideration of Emeriti Association Dues Increase: Joe Casanova**

Considered earlier in meeting: See **4.5-4.6.**

**6.0       New Business**

**7.0       Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.