# 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 May Meeting

**Date:               May 10th, 2007**

**Place:              President’s Conference Room**

**Time:              12:45 - 2:45 p.m.**

**Present:          H. Cadenas, H. Cohen, W. Darrough, D. Dewey, J. Fisher-Hoult, J. Johnson, D. Margaziotis, R. Marshall, L. Mathy, L. Negrete, L. Schwartz, B. Sinclair, F. Stahl, H. Villarreal**

#### Absent:           P. Brier, J. Casanova, H. Goldwhite, J. Hoyt, K. Johnson, M. Friedman, V. Potter, W. Taylor

**1.0        Announcements**

Lou said that Larry Hong (Sociology) is a new emeritus.

Demetrius announced the details of tomorrow’s Leon Pape Memorial Lecture:

Horst L. Stormer, Ph.D.
Nobel Laureate in Physics, 1998
Isidor Isaac Rabi Professor of Physics
Columbia University, New York, NY
Adjunct Physics Vice President
Bell Labs, Lucent Technologies, Murray Hills, NJ

"Small Wonders: The World of Nano Science"
Friday, May 11, 2007, 2:00 p.m. Physical Sciences 158

Demetrius said that the talk is intended for a general audience and that everyone will be welcomed.

Don circulated some materials: 1) a newsletter *Postscript* from San Diego State University, a fact sheet on “California’s Obligation for Retired State Worker’s Health Benefits” from John Chang, the State Controller. Don said that he would forward it to anyone who asked for a copy. Don offered to forward the document as an attachment to anyone interested and added that it was already posted on the CSU ERFA website.

Don reported on the President’s State of the University Address, noting that Rosser was the most upbeat he has ever been. He announced that there were plans to build: 1) a Hilton Hotel across from the dormitories, 2) a new facility for the Arts High School, and 3) a building for a new math and science high school that will be located on campus. The President suggested that now that we have a new contract, it is time to get to work together. Don passed around his notes about the presentation. Joan suggested that, while he is in such a positive mood, we should invite him to speak to the Association in the fall. Hildebrando informed us that Harold Goldwhite was already planning to invite him to speak.

Don announced a farewell event for HermanLujan on May 17th. It will be held from 3-4:30 in the Golden Eagle Ballroom. There was a request that attendees wear Hawaiian shirts.

Desdemona Cardoza is the new Provost.

Joan Johnson announced that CSULA is hosting the league baseball championships starting today and invited fans to attend. She also said that there is a grand opening of the new crime lab on Friday afternoon at 2.

1. **Approval of Agenda**

Harold Cohen moved to add two items of new business: 1) to discuss and formalize the process of notifying the people who need to know when an Association member dies (his suggested list of those who need to know: Karen, Marilyn, Frieda and himself) 2) that names and information about members who die be posted on the website for a period of time, i.e. for a month or for the interval between issues of *The Emeritimes.* Harold suggested that if this procedure is adopted, Demetrius would have to be added to the list of those informed of deaths. Those items were added as 6.3 and 6.4.

Demetrius recommended that formal action be taken to develop a comprehensive email list of emeriti. The matter was added as 6.5. The agenda was m/s/p as amended.

1. **Approval of March and April Minutes.**  Changes were recommended. Bill agreed to make them. The March and April Minutes were m/s/p as corrected.

**4.0    Officer and Committee Reports and Recommendations**

**4.1              President:  Louis Negrete**

No report, but Lou noted that the Spring Luncheon was a resounding success.

**4.2              Past President:  Barbara Sinclair**

No report, but Barbara also praised the Luncheon.

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

Not present--attending Statewide Academic Senate/No report.

**4.4**     **Vice President - Programs:  Herminia Cadenas/Hildebrando Villarreal**

Herminia said that she had no report other than to say that she had thoroughly enjoyed organizing the luncheon and was happy that members had enjoyed it. She then asked Hildebrando to report on the activities of the Program Committee that was developed at the Retreat. He circulated a draft they prepared of the charge and membership of the committee. After a lengthy discussion, the following version was m/s/p:

**Program Committee Charge**

1. Initiate, plan and conduct programs consistent with the objectives of the Association.
2. Make an annual report to the President and Executive Committee in such detail that it may serve as a guideline for future activities.

**Membership**

The Committee on Programs shall consist of four members as follows:

1. The President, ex officio.
2. The Vice President of Programs as Chair.
3. Two representatives from the Executive Committee appointed by the President. Members shall serve 2 year staggered terms, but are eligible for reappointment.
4. Other representatives from the general membership appointed by the Executive Committee on an ad-hoc basis.

 Frieda said that this along with the other changes that are in the works would eventually all have to be incorporated into the bylaws. She said that when all of the changes have been approved, someone will have to pull them all together then we will have to approve all of them as an action of the whole. It was agreed that these changes would go into effect immediately, pending incorporation into the bylaws.

Hildebrando then discussed plans for the Fall Luncheon. As mentioned earlier, Harold Goldwhite will invite President Rosser to speak. If he does not accept the invitation, it was agreed that Desdemona Cardoza, the new Provost, would be invited. It was then agreed that, even if Rosser accepts, Desdemona should be invited to attend so that she can be introduced.

Barbara Sinclair has been invited to make a presentation on “The Benefits of Belonging to the Emeriti Association.” Barbara said that she was planning on making a very brief presentation so that the event will not get too long. Barbara said that the Membership Recruitment task force that was created at the Retreat was looking for ways of getting information about the Association to people who are considering retiring. She suggested that weconsider inviting that group to the Luncheon in addition tomembers of the Association.

The balance of the program will be devoted to 1) recognizing new emeriti and 2) honoring the scholarship recipients.

Rosemarie suggested that the new Association brochure be made available at the Luncheon, along with a description of the activities planned for the year. Janet agreed, saying that some prospective members may be more likely to join if they see a list of the social and cultural activities planned for the year. Joan suggested that someone should be put in charge of such a project and then Hildebrando said that he would try to come up with something for the June meeting.

Frieda said that she would need all of the information about the Luncheon by July 1st. The Committee was considering scheduling the event on Friday, October 12th, from 11:30 until 2:30 when Rosemarie asked if we should wait until we know if President Rosser is available. It was decided that Harold Goldwhite would invite him for the 12th, but offer the 19th, and, finally, the 26th, if there is a scheduling problem. The event will be held in the Golden Eagle Ballroom. A member asked if we are obliged to hold all of our events on campus. It was pointed out that President Rosser has been extremely supportive of the Association, and has made if very clear that these events should be held on campus.

Rosemarie also suggested that we consider paying for the lunch of new emeriti who attend. Demetrius agreed with Rosemarie. He said that at the Retreat there were many heads nodding when the proposal was made to pay for the lunch of recently retired emeriti whom we are recruiting. He and Rosemarie suggested that, given the small number of persons involved, we would not be taking a financial risk. Lou said that he had talked to Larry Hong; the only new emeritus announced this month. Larry would be joining as a life member but would be spending too much time in China to join the Executive Committee. Leon argued that the issue not be dealt with by changing the bylaws, but that we make a decision about buying lunches on a year-to-year basis. The Program Committee can discuss the matter with the Treasurer each year to determine the fiscal impact.

Don observed that by the July meeting we should know how many persons would be involved and recommended that we make the decision at that time.

Demetrius raised the topic of the Retreat again, asking if we have any record of the discussions besides the audiotape. He said that without even a list of things that were deemed important during discussions at the Retreat, we would have to rely on our collective fading memories. Bill noted that the matter was agendized for this meeting under New Business as 6.1.

Joan Johnson complained that there was no Handicapped Parking easily accessible to the Golden Eagle Ballroom. She recommended that the situation be investigated and that we cooperate with the Office of Students with Disabilities **to** pressure the university to create handicapped parking spaces close to the building. In the meantime, we should investigate the possibility of arranging shuttle service for persons with mobility problems. Joan argued that people, who suffer through this problem once, might not want to return to any future events. Joan and Janet agreed to look into the issue and report back.

* 1. **- 4.6 Fiscal Affairs Chair & Treasurer: Joe Casanova and Bill Taylor**

Not present. Although neither Joe nor Bill was present, Bill emailed his Report to Bill Darrough, who distributed it.

**4.7     Fellowship Fund Chair: Janet Fisher-Hoult**

Janet announced that since the last meeting Mrs. Sorrensen decided that she wanted to have the Sorrensen Memorial Fund handled by the University as a whole rather than the Emeriti Association. She was upset that the award went to a student in geography and is working with the Scholarship Office to narrow the criteria. The loss of this scholarship is more thanoffset by the PE Emeriti Faculty Scholarship that will now be managed by the Association. Janet also reported that the interest earnings on scholarship fundshave increased. Last year they were 2.5 %. This year the Foundation Board approved a distribution of 4.5% for the investment pool so our interest earnings have increased. Janet said that from now on the scholarship awards will be held within budget and that residual funds will be rolled back into the endowment.

Janet said that her group would meet soon to go over the funds and applications. In cases where there is a shortfall of $30 or $40 for a $1,000 award, the Scholarship Committee might ask for direction from the Executive Committee whether to award e.g. $960 or supplement to bring it up to $1,000. It was agreed that the Scholarship Committee would make recommendations in such situations but that the Executive Committee would make the final decision. Don said that the Scholarship Committee would be well advised to make certain that such recommendations involve small sums.

**4.8  OLLI:  Peter Brier**

Not present. Barbara said that a reception for OLLI people is scheduled for Friday, May 18th, and that all Committee members are invited. The reception will be held at the Extended Education Office (Golden Eagle Building, 2nd Floor, Room 211) from 1:30-3.

**4.9  Historian/Archivist: Leon Schwartz**

 Leon repeated his request for interesting pictures of Association members’ activities either on or off campus. Pictures could be of professional activities, hobbies, travels, etc. He will accept pictures by email.

**4.10  Corresponding Secretary: Marilyn Friedman**

Not present/no report.

            **4.11 Membership Secretary: Karen Johnson**

Not present/no report.

**4.12 Webmaster: Demetrius Margaziotis**

No report.

**4.13 Database Coordinator: Harold Cohen**

Left early for prior appointment/no report.

**4.14 Secretary: William Darrough**

No Report.

**4.15          *The Emeritimes* Editorial Chair: Frieda Stahl**

 Frieda announced that Hildebrando is working on an obituary for Matilde Castells, the only one scheduled. The issue will include stories on 1) attending opening day, 2) The up-coming fall event, 3) Marilyn’s health column, 4) The president’s column (Harold Goldwhite has to have his picture taken) and 5) a story about the scholarship winners. Frieda also asked Don to write something on the President’s state of the university and asked anyone who attends the crime lab opening to write it up.

Ellen Stein will prepare the Sid Albert manuscript so that it can be mailed with *The Emeritimes*. Her fee for the work will be $50/hour.

Leon asked if Frieda still had any of the photos that Margaret and Bob submitted with their dispatches. Frieda said that she did and would look for them so that Leon could use them in an album. Demetrius suggested that, when people submit text for the website, they should also provide electronic copies of pictures that he can then link to the text.

Janet said that she was working up an interview with an early scholarship winner and a piece on Janet’swork with the Financial Aid and Institutional Advancement offices. She will submit both to Frieda for consideration when they are finished.

**4.16        CSULA Academic Senate: Don Dewey**

There was a proposed policy modification involving graduate credit for undergraduate courses. Extended discussion led to its being referred back to EPC. It was moved that undergraduate admission to 500 level courses be tabled because what happens to the first document might affect the second document.

There was a resolution on sustainability in the CSU. It deals with environmental issues, i.e. don’t waste resources, paper, trees, etc. The senate passed a resolution embracing sustainable development at CSULA. The statement was originally authored at the CSU Academic Senate and modified to fit CSULA. It passed unanimously.

Finally the senate approved a proposed policy modification on repeating courses and grade substitution. It proposes to clarify the language in the Handbook, making it clear that grade substitutions for equivalent courses occur only at the student’s request, defines what an equivalent course is and makes it clear that students who repeat the same course more than once can only have the grade in one of these attempts used in GPA calculations. The limit of 20 units that may be repeated was not changed.

Alice Kawakami, the University Librarian presented a State of the Library Address. Don said that it was a very informative presentation. Anne Hafner, the Assessment Coordinator spoke about WASC. She encouraged faculty to volunteer to serve on university writing teams as CSULA prepares for the WASC process. Ann Snow made a very successful Distinguished Professor lecture on the benefits of bilingual education both for those who do not speak English and English-speakers who learn another language.

In the next few weeks the senate will receive a report from Vice Presidents Quan and Ross on efforts to make CSULA technologically accessible to all students, faculty and staff. Quan and Ross are co-chairs of The Accessible Technology Initiative (ATI), prompted both by federal mandates and a desire to increase accessibility. The initiative will address access to web pages, university procurement, instructional materials, etc.

Members of the senate will soon hear a short presentation from the five faculty representatives who participated in the System-wide Access to Excellence meeting. The presentation will be followed by additional discussion. Don said that Rosser seemed energized by both the signing of the contract with CFA and the results of the Access to Excellence meeting. He thinks that faculty and administration will have a great opportunity to work together.

* 1. **CSU Academic Senate: Harold Goldwhite**

Not present/no report.

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

Leon reported that Don Dewey had been reelected President of CSU ERFA.

The ongoing discussion of changes in the Long Term Care Program continued. A summary of George Diehr’s discussion of those changes and recent developments in health care can be found at: <http://csuerfa.org/council.html>. Bob Kully reported on improved facilities at Northridge for CSU ERFA and the appointment of a new administrative assistant.

CalPERS Health Plan Changes for 2008 and other discussions and analyses can be found at:

 [http://csuerfa.org/news-views.html - CalPERS\_Health\_Plan\_Changes\_for\_2008](http://csuerfa.org/news-views.html#CalPERS_Health_Plan_Changes_for_2008)

David Humphers (Sacramento) representing the Health Benefits Committee discussed a CalPERS plan to increase the emergency room co pay from $50 to $75. The change would apply to retirees not on Medicare. Barbara Sinclair argued that there should be no increase on emergency room visits that are life saving or prevent long-term disability. Humphers then proposed the following motion: The CSU-ERFA State Council recommends to CalPERS that the co-payment be waived for Emergency Room visits that require intervention necessary to treat acute life threatening conditions or to prevent significant disability.

The State Council approved this motion.  The reason behind the recommendation is that there are some acute conditions that require immediate intervention even though the patient may not need to be admitted to the hospital.

Bob Bess, Director of Legislative Affairs, discussed bills currently being considered by the legislature. Leon said that if anyone was interested in learning more about the current legislative situation he would pass around some materials. All of the information can be found under Legislative Report at:

<http://csuerfa.org/council.html>.

Pre- and Post-Retirement Committee Chair William Blischke and Webmaster Mark Shapiro reported on the state of pension systems and a meeting of the California Public Employees Post-Retirement Benefits Commission. They reported that CalPERS pension obligations are over 90% funded at present, as are most county retirement systems' pension obligations.

Although there is great popular concern over social security solvency, no crisis exists in the funding of public employee pension benefits.  However, problems do exist in funding health care benefits for retirees owing both to rising costs and new accounting requirements.  The problem is most pressing for the retirement systems where health benefits are not coordinated with Medicare.

Ted Anagnoson (new Editor of the *Reporter)* requested members to send him information about current activities. The deadline for the June issue is May 27th.

Harold Goldwhite is now serving as the CSU Academic Senate Retiree Senator. Harold reported that there were two nominations for Faculty Trustee: Craig Smith (Long Beach) and Kathleen Kaiser (Chico). He said that an independent doctorate has been approved for the CSU and noted a controversial community college initiative to fix fees permanently in the state constitution.

Leon then recounted the CFA report: 1) the FERP Program will stay intact. 2) there is a major revamping in process of the grievance procedure for CSU faculty 3) the Assembly has indicated that it will be addressing CSU workload issues in the near future 4) the CFA is opposing the 10% increase in student fees 5) the CFA is a cosponsor of SB 190 introduced by Leland Yee that requires the Trustees to decide on executive compensation packages in open session. Lillian Taiz has been elected president of CFA.

**5.0            Unfinished Business**

* 1. **Update on implementation of retreat initiatives: Joe, Demetrius and Barbara Sinclair.**

Barbara reported that the most obvious progress has been made by the Program Committee, which was formed, met, and brought in a great deal of information during April and May meetings. We are getting to work creating a new, attractive brochure that will be useful in our membership recruitment activities.

Speaking of recruitment, Barbara reminded members of the Executive Committee that each of them should be actively approaching potential members with a personal invitation to join the Association. She said that another plan was to communicate with deans and chairs to try to gather information about persons who are nearing retirement so that we can invite them to join. Joan suggested getting a current list of departments and then determining which members of the Executive Committee have relationships with colleges and departments so that we can assign liaisons to the various departments. That way someone would be personally responsible for some departments each year.

Don observed that one of the problems we face in recruiting is imperfect knowledge about which retirees will be granted emeritus status. Some for whomwe assume itwill be granted are not so honoredand others that we do not think will receive emeritus standing receive it. It is something we have to think about while developing recruitment strategies, i.e. what if we get them all gung ho and then they never get emeritus status?

Janet agreed that the importance of connecting with the colleges is key to recruitment and success. Rather than withhold her comments until agenda item6.1, Janet considered itrelevant at this point. Janet contacted the president of Phi Kappa Phi and asked why there were no emeriti involved. The president didn’t know, but thought that no careful notes or list was maintained, and nobody thought of it. When Janet went to the annual banquet she checked around and discovered that she has been added tothe Phi Kappa Phi Board of Directors. In that position, Janet will take action to ensure that there is always an emeriti presence in the organization.

This is the kind of thing that we have to do with the colleges: contact them and remind them that we are here or we may just fall through the cracks. Barbara suggested that we might form Take a Dean to Lunch Bunches. Given the fact that most of the deans have been on campus for such a short time, they might appreciate our reaching out to see if there is anything we can do to help them.

Demetrius suggested that inviting the deans to the fall luncheon might make a good start. He observed that this would seem appropriate since the President would be speaking. Don said that when he was president, he always invited the President and vice presidents and some came. Bill Darrough noted that, since most of the deans are new to the campus, they might take the invitation and their attendance at the luncheon as a matter of tradition.

**6.0        New Business**

* 1. **Status of written summary of retreat deliberations and recommendations: Demetrius and Joan.**

As promised, Joan distributed her notes from the Retreat by email, but observed that much of the discussion at this meeting follows up on matters that had been raised at the Retreat. She also noted that one suggestion made at the Retreat was that we should encourage legislative advocacy and that Lou’s President’s Message in *The Emeritimes* did that. Of course, it’s now important to follow up on that message.

Another issue raised at the Retreat is one that Joan expressed mixed feelings about: talking to Kyle Button about whether or not this Association should become a fundraising association. This might be difficult to do without interfering with the university and the development office, but it might be useful to have a conversation with him over lunch.

Joan observed that Don just said that, as president, he had invited deans and vice presidents to the fall luncheon. How would a new president know to do that? She suggested that we codify the tasks of the various offices and committees into something resembling job descriptions to help incumbents maintain continuity in their activities from year to year.

Joan proposed to revisit the notes about the Retreat at each meeting and decide whether we want to add or change anything, as well as to see how we are progressing. Don suggested that a subject such as“Retreat Follow-Up” could be carried as a continuing item on the agenda.

Regarding legislative outreach, Don said that he was confident that he could get the new Chair of the California Assembly’s Committee on Higher Education, Anthony Portantino, as a speaker. Joan said that we should also consider Gloria Romero, given her ties to the campus. Rosemarie said we might also consider someone from the Legislative Analyst’s office. Janet also mentioned Sylvia Scott-Hayes as a possible panelist.

Joan reported thaton October 6th, Billie Jean King will make her 10th consecutive fund raising visit to the campus. Each of those years a Shapiro Award was granted. Pam Shriver promotes it in honor of her late husband, Joe Shapiro, who taught Business courses at Cal State LA. There have been some pretty distinguished recipients, e.g. Maxine Waters, John and Diane Cook and Sally Ride. The recipient this fall will be Maria Shriver, so the October 6th dinner might provide an opportunity for a little legislative outreach.

Frieda reminded the committee that, as reported earlier, there is a push on the part of the community colleges to lock up their funding. Since the UC is immune, this could have a negative impact on CSU. Frieda suggested that this might make an excellent topic for a panel discussion.

Don said that he had raised the topic with the President and asked “how do we respond to the community college inroads on the budget without looking like the enemy or a dog in a manger?” The President responded: “We should be a dog in the manger.” He sounded like he was ready to play hardball on this issue.

* 1. **How can the Emeriti Association Reconnect with Phi Kappa Phi and other institutions on campus?: Janet.**

Janet addressed this issue in 5.1.

* 1. **Notifications Regarding Emeriti Deaths of: Harold Cohen**

Harold had to leave early, but Frieda reported on the problem. Notices of death come first to PERS, then to CSU ERFA, and then seep through to us (Harold for the database, Karen for the membership records, Frieda for *The Emeritimes* and Marilyn for whatever courtesies can be arranged.) How it gets to the university, unless she reads about it in the *Reporter* remains a mystery to her. Don, and Leon, however, said that they gave the news to the President’s office and HRM more often than he got anything from them. Don said that he would raise the issue with CSU ERFA and ask for campus notification as soon as information reaches them. It was agreed that Demetrius would be added to the notification list so that the information could be posted on the Internet in a timely fashion.

* 1. **Proposal that names of recently deceased members of the Association be posted on the website for, e.g. one month or between issues of *The Emeritimes:*  Harold Cohen**

Harold had to leave early. Action postponed until June meeting.

* 1. **Development of an email list for Emeriti Association Members: Demetrius Margaziotis.**

Demetrius said that he brought it up, but the key person to address the issue would be Harold Cohen. Demetrius recommended that in the next mailing, Harold should request email addresses and make it clear that he will not post them but use them to improve our communication with the membership. He concluded by observing that every group is doing this now. Demetrius requested that 6.5 remain on the agenda for the June meeting so that Harold Cohen can be involved in the discussion.

Frieda said that Ted Crovello would be interested in being appointed to one of the At-Large positions on the Committee. It was recommended that the matter be agendized for the June meeting.

**7.0       Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 .m.