# 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 January Meeting**

**Date:               January 11, 2007**

**Place:              President’s Conference Room**

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

**Present:          P. Brier, J. Casanova, H. Cohen, W. Darrough, D. Dewey, J. Fisher-Hoult, M. Friedman, H. Goldwhite, K. Johnson, J. Johnson, D. Margaziotis, R. Marshall, L. Mathy, L. Negrete, V. Potter, L. Schwartz, B. Sinclair, W. Taylor, H. Villarreal**

#### Absent:           H. Cadenas, J. Hoyt, F. Stahl,

**1.0        Announcements**

Lou announced a campus event and circulated some information:

**“A Campus Conversation" at Cal State L.A.”**
The CSU has asked each campus to help initiate the development of a new system-wide strategic plan. This meeting, entitled “Access to Excellence,” focuses on six strategic areas, or “Domains,” that are considered vital to the University’s capacity for enhancing student access and success, as well as academic quality for the next decade. This is an open forum to discuss the future of the CSU and how Cal State L.A. can best serve the students of the future.
*Luckman Theatre*
Call the Academic Affairs office at (323) 343-3818 for more information.
***Tuesday, January 30, 2007*** ***1:00PM - 4:15PM***

Joe noted that the Chemistry Department does its retirement parties wholesale and announced one honoring Costello Brown, Anthony Fratiello, Richard Keys, Donald Paulson and Stanley Pine. He circulated information on the event. Anyone interested should contact Jesse Murillo in the Department of Chemistry x32300. RSVP by Tuesday, January 30th.

**2.0        Approval of Agenda**

It was suggested that item 5.1 Unfinished Business: (Planning for Retreat to deal with a reconsideration of mission of the Emeriti Association and strategies for increasing membership: Joe Casanova, Demetrius Margaziotis and Barbara Sinclair) be moved up in the agenda since some members would have to leave early. It was agreed that the matter be dealt with after the fiscal reports as 4.6a. The agenda was m/s/p as amended.

1. **Approval of Minutes of December 14th.**

One correction was offered and the December minutes were m/s/p as corrected.

**4.0    Officer and Committee Reports and Recommendations**

**4.1              President:  Louis Negrete**

No report.

**4.2              Past President:  Barbara Sinclair**

No report.

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

No report.

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

Not present. Lou reported that he and Lupe were making arrangements for the Senate Meeting/Emeriti Reception on Tuesday, February 13th. The art gallery and patio in the Fine Arts Building have been reserved for the occasion. More information will be made available as the program develops. Committee members were reminded that the February meeting will be held at 10 a.m. on Tuesday the 13th to enable members to avoid making an extra trip to campus. Lou said that he and Lupe would appreciate help from other committee members in organizing the program.

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

 Bill Taylor distributed the January Treasurer’s Report. He observed that the only differences between this and last month’s report were $425 in collected dues and the CD dividend. Bill said that, as requested, he queried the Credit Union about the possibility that the share certificate might be declared dormant by the state. He was reassured that withdrawing interest was an action thatwould be sufficient to protect the funds. They only declare funds dormant it there is no activity for three years and even then they give a three-month notice. Finally, Bill reported that the funds are in a 12-month share certificate with a “bump up” option. This means that if the rate increased, we can elect to “bump up” to the new rate one time during the year.

Harold Cohen recommended that any promises from the credit union be gotten in writing but other members said that there had never been any problem with the credit union.

**46.1 Unfinished Business: (Planning for Retreat to deal with a reconsideration of mission of the Emeriti Association and strategies for increasing membership: Joe Casanova, Demetrius Margaziotis and Barbara Sinclair**

Joe circulated copies of the discussion document that he circulated earlier by email. He offered the document as an agenda for discussing the proposed retreat. He suggested that the first order of business should be selecting the venue. Although some members moved to select the Long Beach Yacht Club, others asked for information about the relative costs. There was some disagreement about whether to choose a venue without obtaining that information. Janet then asked if a date had been considered. Joe said that he was open, that he wanted to get some direction at this meeting before consulting with the Club. When there seemed to be some disagreement about whether to select the Club without knowing anything about the costs, Joe suggest that we make Villa Gardens the second choice. If the Club proves to be markedly more expensive we can go with Villa Gardens. His motion was m/s/p. Joe said that as far as the date is concerned that will have to remain up in the air until he consults with the representative of the Club. Many of the rooms are booked far in advance and he thought that he could book something for a date in March. He will email the members as soon as he has prospective dates.

Discussion turned to selection of a facilitator. Joe asked Barbara if she had anyone that she might recommend. She said that she would come up with a name. In the discussion document, Joe recommended Janice Mirza, a CSU Audit Manager who he thought would do a good job, but he wanted other names to consider. He said that it was important to have other names because he was not certain that Ms. Mirza was willing or able to serve as facilitator. Harold Cohen asked if we should consider holding the retreat without a facilitator. There was a strong consensus that a facilitator was necessary to keep discussions on track.

Leon asked if the last retreat had been a business meeting or just a brainstorming session. He was reminded that if was held in lieu of the monthly meeting and that it had included a short business session. Demetrius said that notes from the last retreat were on the website and he would distribute them to the committee. Joan said that she was anxious to see those notes to determine if there were important matters discussed then that have not been implemented. She said that they should be incorporated into the new agenda.

Joe suggested that we select a facilitator and that before the next meeting; members go on the Internet to consider the discussion document and the notes from the last retreat. Each member should make an effort to integrate these documents into a set of issues to be addressed at the retreat. Barbara said that she felt that some members were underestimating the accomplishments of the last retreat. Harold asked if she remembered the name of the facilitator at the last retreat and suggested that she should be considered as well as Ms. Mirza. Joe said that he had hoped to have more names, but moved that we settle for two. He moved that he approach Janice Mirza first. If she were uninterested or unavailable, he would then contact Christina Brook. The motion was m/s/p.

Joe then invited a discussion of the list of “Current Activities” on the document he circulated. He said that Peter Brier had noted that OLLI was not on the list. Joe apologized for the oversight, recognizing OLLI as on of the Association’s more important activities. He said that he had merely merged a list from drawn from a letter prepared by Lou and Joan with the older list of Association activities submitted by Ken Phillips at the December meeting, making minor changes and placing them in order of priority. He asked for members to look over the list and suggest additional activities and to inform him if they had serious objections to the order of priority.

Don Dewey noted that one activity on the list involved ERFA and reminded members that when referring to the statewide organization they should always use the complete acronym: CSU ERFA.

Janet said that in the past there had been discussion of expanding the social activities of the Emeriti Association and wondered if that should not be added to the list. Joe said that he wanted to focus on the list of things that we are doing now, and to discuss proposed additions to the list at the next meeting. Demetrius suggested that present and proposed activities and the mission of the organization should all be up for discussion at the retreat. He argued that we really need a discussion of what it is that we are doing or could do that directly benefits emeriti. He then read an email that he sent to Joe:

“In discussing present or future activities of the Association I would like to hear a discussion that would recognize the distinction that some of our current or future activities are of a more direct benefit or interest to emeriti while others are of a broader nature. This is certainly true of the list that you have already (you meaning Joe) put together. And in this connection I would like to see some attention focused during the retreat on identifying, developing, promoting activities, current or future that directly benefit or are of interest to emeriti.”

He said that did not mean to imply that this should be done at the expense of or exclusion of other things. He said, rather, that in a discussion of how to attract new members to the Association, it is important to directly address the question of what we can offer them. Demetrius asked that we also again consider the issue of a dues increase, the uses of any increased funds, and the rationale used for any increase in dues now and in the future. He said that he did recognize that we already voted for an increase.

Barbara said that at the last retreat the committee decided that we wanted to implement a slight increase in dues and plan on Life Members to contribute to the scholarship fund. She argued that the issue had been hanging around for a long time. Demetrius said that we are now considering a substantial increase in dues and that we should be clear in our own mind why we are doing it. Joe suggested that a substantial increase of a small number is still a small number. Demetrius reminded Joe that at the last meeting a substantial majority of member expressed interest in discussing the rationale for increasing dues and what we should do with the increased revenue. He recommended that we should still hold that discussion. Joe said that those issues would definitely be on the agenda at the retreat.

Don Dewey recommended that the committee incorporate Sid Albert’s Coda into the agenda for the retreat insofar as there may be some valuable recommendations. Peter Brier said that he did not know if a retreat was the place to do it, but recommended that we consider a fundamental constitution revision that would divide the way we do business into two bodies: a smaller emeriti board and a commitment to more that would be inclusive of the emeriti at large. These meetings could be social, but not necessarily-they could also involve speakers or they could address issues. Peter said the goal of the change would be to get the emeriti more identified with the organization. Some members expressed interest in considering the proposal. Barbara said that we have considered having members of our committees from outside the Executive Committee as a means of getting more people involved.

Lou said that when we first talked about the retreat he thought we would focus on creating a clearer definition of our priorities and mission. For example, if we decide that our mission is to provide scholarships for students, and that was a priority, even though Sid Albert wouldn’t like it, we might want to have major fundraising events, involving events downtown with celebrities and with corporate sponsors to really build up the scholarship fund. However if that is not a major priority, then we should focus on other things. If, for example, our priority is to serve the membership, then perhaps we should develop a closer connection with CSU ERFA and have their committee chairs present at our events so that they can update us on threats to retiree benefits and to keep us up to date on the political picture statewide. Lou recommended that we specifically assign priority levels to our various activities.

Joe said that he would welcome such a discussion. In his view supporting scholarships stand high in the interests of emeriti and prospective emeriti. Demetrius suggested that even though scholarships may be a high priority, putting together a serious fundraising should be addressed as a separate issue.

Janet, on the other hand, said that she was concerned by the fact that scholarships were not higher in Joe’s proposed list of priorities. She said, however, that she recognized that it was important that we consider the interests of emeriti and prospective emeriti separately at the retreat and thought that Sid’s Coda might prove useful in that discussion. Joe asked Don to look through the Coda and identify three or four things that are not currently on his list and submit them. He also asked all members to look over the list and try to suggest additions.

There was a brief discussion of the possibility of coordinating Emeriti Association meetings with those of CSU ERFA so that members of that organization, i.e. the Chair of the Health Benefits Committee could provide Association members with updated information.

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

 Janet reported that she had been able to work out the fiscal problems with Institutional Development and that they covered the $3000 that they had demanded from the Association to cover a mistake that they made. All scholarships have been awarded. Action is now being taken to ensure that such problems will not occur in the future. Janet is now monitoring the situation very carefully.

Janet also reported that her committee has placed a contingency on one of the students awarded a scholarship in the last cycle and they would try to make certain that it never happens again. The student earned a 3.5 GPA in the most recent quarter but did not have an overall 3.5 GPA. Since there was some ambiguity in the phrasing of the criteria, they decided to go ahead and award the scholarship. They will ensure that the criteria are clearly stated and applied in the future. Demetrius asked for additional information to post on the website and Janet agreed to submit it. Janet also asked Joan for more information on the PE scholarship that has been turned over to the Emeriti Association.

Janet reported that she ran into a person who received one of the Association’s scholarships in the past who told her that she never would have been able complete her degree if it had not been for the scholarship. Janet suggested that we try to locate other persons who received scholarships and interview them. We might be able to get testimonials that would be useful in fundraising for the scholarship program. She said that she had written a simple Christmas letter reporting on the good works of a school that had, so far, elicited more than $5,000 in donations. She suggested that we could benefit from a similar strategy to raise funds for scholarships. Harold Cohen asked if we might solicit contributions from previous winners.

**4.6  OLLI:  Peter Brier**

Peter distributed the OLLI winter schedule. He learned earlier in the day that Connie had received some support from the University. She received a course off to enable her to continue searching for alternative funding for OLLI. She encouraged members of the committee to offer courses in the spring. Persons interested should contact either Peter or Barbara with information about the course they wish to offer. Vilma reported on her experience with OLLI and said that she would be offering a course in February and March titled “Doctors, Patients and Poets.” It will run from John Keats to Michael Harper, a Cal State Student who now holds a funded chair at Brown University. He was a medic in Vietnam.

Peter predicted that OLLI would survive its funding problems but reminded prospective instructors that they would be doing it for love, not money. Joe reported that Vilma has just had a collection of poems accepted for publication in *Lyric*. The committee congratulated her. Barbara suggested that such achievements by emeriti should be more widely publicized to the university community. Joe and Demetrius encouraged members to report on their activities for the website and *Emeritimes.* Don added that they should be submitted to *University Reports.*

**4.7  Historian/Archivist: Leon Schwartz**

Leon said that he hoped to have the archive for the past calendar year updated by the next meeting.

**4.8  Corresponding Secretary: Marilyn Friedman**

Marilyn said that she has written to both of Don Moore’s daughters.

            **4.9 Membership Secretary: Karen Johnson**

Karen thanked members for their input on the letters she circulated at the last meeting and said that she and Lou had signed them and they will be sent out in the near future.

* 1. **Webmaster: Demetrius Margaziotis**

Demetrius requested information about the February Reception so that he could post it on the website.

**4.12 Secretary: William Darrough**

No Report

**4.13 Database Coordinator: Harold Cohen**

Harold reported that the database was current. The labels and directories are out.

**4.14          *Emeritimes* Editorial Chair: Frieda Stahl**

Not present. Joan said that she received an email from Frieda regarding a possible delay in getting the *Emeritimes* out. Joan said she would be in touch about the stuffing session when she received a date from Frieda. Barbara said that the survey she discussed at the last meeting could not wait, and she will send it out with a cover letter in a few days.

**4.15          CSULA Academic Senate: Don Dewey**

 Don reported that the next meeting of the Senate would be in the Music Hall. He said that over the years there have been questions raised about the Senate tying up the large Lecture Hall on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons so they are trying another venue out. The senators cast their ballots for members of the committee to select Herman Lujan’s replacement as Vice President. There were 25-30 names on the ballot and Don predicted that a good committee should be elected. Lujan is retiring as of May or June.

There was one first reading item that was sent back by the President: Research Scholarship and Creative Activity Awards. That committee was converted from a subcommittee to a standing committee, but the FPC, in preparing the document inserted some language from the legislation and the Senate rejected it. The President has rejected the document based on the fact that it deleted old language, which he liked. Perhaps he does not realize that now if the Senate does not back down it will go back to him without the old language, but as the original document that will still be in force until a new policy is approved.

**4.16     CSU Academic Senate: Harold Goldwhite**

The Senate met in November and took a number of actions. First, it asked the CSU the progress of the institution towards the goals of ACR 73 that attempts to increase the proportion of tenure and tenure track faculty in the CSU and also to reduce the SFR. The Senate is strongly in favor or this. It was forwarded to the Chancellor and got a rather dismissive response from the V.P. of Academic Affairs. That will be an issue that will be taken up with him at the next Senate meeting. His response was that the CSU does not provide reports to the legislature unless there is money attached. Harold believes that the response is unacceptable.

There were the usual requests for more funding for everything. Of more interest is the alignment of a lab sciences requirement for admission to the CSU with that required for admission to the U.C. That means that one of the lab sciences must be a life science. In the past the requirement was ambiguous and both could have been life sciences or both physical sciences.

Harold said that the Senate would be meeting the following week and that, among other items to be taken up, they would try to get into dialogue with the CSU over a student fee policy that will actually improve the way that students progress towards degrees. Many senators think it is time to have a discussion about how our fee policy is structured, not just the overall level of fees but how we break it down in terms of number of units that students attempt.

There was a request for resources, particularly library resources for the freestanding Ed.D. that we now offer and those resources will have to come internally-with some redistribution in order to support that degree. The Senate also revisited the issue of transfer lower division program and course numbering at community colleges. This involves the attempt to get some consistent numbering of courses, something that students, faculty and advisors can understand when students try to transfer credits.

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

Don said that there is one important issue regarding CSU ERFA. He sent an email asking members who had not yet received the CSU ERFA *Reporter,* to notify him when they received it. He said that they are conducting an experiment with sending the publication by first class to see if it arrives more quickly. So far the results have been mixed. They suspect that at least part of the problem is with the Northridge mailroom. Don said that he was going to pass the list of committee members who are not CSU ERFA members on to Rosemarie Marshall, CSU ERFA recruitment officer for action. Don also reported that he had received inquiries about the CSU ERFA calendar, and that it should be sent soon.

**5.0              Unfinished Business**

**6.0        New Business**

Demetrius suggested formally agendizing Unfinished and New Business earlier in the meeting earlier in the meeting. He observed that we routinely leave unfinished business until the end of the meeting and, as a result, it remains unfinished. Don said that the meetings were organized that way in the past, but had changed. Demetrius asked for the matter to be considered.

**7.0       Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.