# 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 February Meeting

**Date:               February 13, 2007**

**Place:              President’s Conference Room**

**Time:              10:00 - 12:00 p.m.**

**Present:          P. Brier, H. Cadenas, H. Cohen, W. Darrough, D. Dewey, M. Friedman, H. Goldwhite, K. Johnson, J. Johnson, D. Margaziotis, R. Marshall, L. Mathy, L. Negrete, L. Schwartz, B. Sinclair, F. Stahl, W. Taylor, H. Villarreal**

**Guest: S. Albert**

#### Absent:          J. Casanova, J. Fisher-Hoult, J. Hoyt, V. Potter,

**1.0        Announcements**

Lou announced that Ted Anagnoson had been granted emeritus status. Don said that he had received a few phone calls that may bring in some money. Tom Rusch contacted him about paying dues. Jeanne Schnitzler also called, worried about the dues increase. Don informed her that she should be safe since she had paid for a life membership, but that a donation to the scholarship fund would be most welcomed. She said that she would make a donation. Don reported that Jeanne would not be at the reception because she had fallen and shattered a hip while doing research in Spain. She said that she would submit an article on her research experience to *Emeritimes.*

Don also reported that President Rosser had ordered that the chemistry retirement party be held on campus rather than at Almansor, where it had already been scheduled. Bill Taylor said that when he organized parties for the Physics Department, everyone made out their checks to him and he paid the bill. For the chemistry party, the checks were made out to the Department of Chemistry. They, therefore, went into an agency account. Expenditures must then be approved up the chain of command. When it got to Steve Garcia, he refused to approve it unless it was held on campus.

Marilyn reported that Kim Miller’s retirement party had almost been cancelled.

Even though the checks were made out to an individual, the invitations stated: “the School of Nursing invites you,” causing the administration to argue that it became an official university function. The administration allowed the event to proceed after negotiations, but invitations will be carefully worded in the future to avoid the problem. Don said that one of the issues statewide was that if an inappropriate person is served alcohol at one of our events we are personally responsible. He observed that this potential liability could be part of the reason for the University moving such events on campus. Marilyn suggested that the more important motive was the profits to be made on such events by UAS. Don added that the Chemistry Department dinner was much better than any that had been held at Almansor or on campus in the past and that they may have been trying to make a point.

Lou said that he had called Kevin Baaske three times to personally invite him to the reception, but had not received a call back. He suggested that Baaske be reminded of the event at the Senate meeting.

Harold Cohen announced that Peter Damien (Art) has changed his name to Peter Mugan Sozan Schellin. He is now completely blind, become a Buddhist priest and is currently doing volunteer work in hospices and prisons.

Harold also said that he will be leaving for China on March 7th and will be gone for about 1-½ months. If anyone has any pressing business involving the database, they should discuss it with him before he leaves. He will be back in time to get the labels out for the spring *Emeritimes.*

**2.0        Approval of Agenda**

Frieda said that the agenda should be amended to include a consideration of the slate of candidates so that it could be published in advance of the elections. Lou suggested adding it as 4.1a. Barbara recommended that item 5.1 Planning for the Retreat… also be moved up in the agenda because she and Demetrius have some very important issues that have to be discussed. Lou suggested moving it up to 4.1b. Sid Albert asked that an item of New Business be added to the agenda: a report on the publication status of his history of the Emeriti Association. The item was added as 6.1. The agenda was m/s/p as amended.

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

A few corrections were offered and the January minutes were m/s/p as corrected.

**4.0    Officer and Committee Reports and Recommendations**

**4.1              President:  Louis Negrete**

No report.

**4.1a** Karen said that the slate was still incomplete. Harold Goldwhite will be moving to President, Hildebrando will be the new V.P. - Programs, Marty Roden will be running for V.P.- Administration, Ted Anagnoson will run for Representative to the CSULA Academic Senate. Karen has one more year to serve as Membership Secretary. Bill Darrough’s term as Secretary is ending and we have no one offering to serve. Karen has put out some feelers, with no success. Karen said that she had thought of Dorothy Keane in Education, but did not have her email address. Karen thought that she might make a good addition to the Exec Committee. Diane Vernon and Ted Crovello were suggested as possible candidates. Don observed that Jackie Hoyt’s term is up and asked if the Committee will elect a replacement for her At Large position. Frieda said that the President appoints and the Committee approves the replacement. Frieda said that she would need the complete slate at the March meeting.

**4.1b Planning for the retreat: Barbara Sinclair and Demetrius Margaziotis.**

Barbara said that there were several issues regarding the retreat that the Retreat Planning Subcommittee wished to get input on from the Exec Committee. First, since several members would not be able to attend on the scheduled date: March 8th they wanted to know if the date could be changed. It was agreed that the retreat would be held on the 29th or 30th of March.

Barbara then asked if we would be having a business meeting along with the retreat or have time devoted completely to retreat issues. She said that about half of the members have said that they wanted a business meeting combined with the retreat and the rest wanting to just have a retreat. Barbara argued that we would not have time to deal with the issues if we allowed business affairs to interfere. It was m/s/p that we hold our regular business meeting on March 8th and free up time at the retreat to fully discuss the selected issues.

It was decided that the retreat would run from 10 am to 4 pm. Barbara further suggested that members who would be attending the retreat write their checks to Bill Taylor. The cost would be either $20 or $21. Barbara said that she would inform everyone as soon as the cost was determined.

Barbara then said that in terms of content at the retreat, there seem to be three overarching categories:

1. What does the Association do that directly benefits or affects members? There are a host of issues that can be discussed here but Barbara suggested some: cooperate with and support other faculty organizations, such as CSU-ERFA, to maintain and improve retirement benefits, publish a full-service newsletter with key information about emeriti faculty, obituaries, activities of the Association- an expansion of what we have, advocate emeriti rights and privileges at CSULA, advise CSU-ERFA regarding our position regarding pensions or health benefits or legislative contacts or bills coming us, etc., sponsor luncheons, receptions, colloquia or theater events-in other words, additional social activities, or educational activities. Maintain a current website that provides information regarding emeriti activities and membership and all of the things that are going on that might be of interest to potential and actual retirees. Barbara said that she could go on, but that she thought those would be sufficient to give to the person who would be leading the retreat.

She said that Demetrius was correct when he said that we should be attempting to determine what kinds of direct service we can do that will benefit people and encourage them to become active in the organization.

She suggested that, perhaps, the Executive Committee is doing too much of the work. Perhaps we should have committees that have non-executive members. We could help people who are getting ready to retire with all of the things they have to go through and what they need to know. Is there any way that we can expedite that?

2. Dues. What are we going to do with our money? How is it that people who pay on an ongoing basis pay more than those who pay a lump sum? Should life members be asked, periodically, to donate additional money? Harold Cohen observed that that was each person’s choice. He chooses to be a Sustaining Member rather than a Life Member and will probably live long enough to pay more than a Life Member would. If he were just concerned about the money he would have become a Life Member.

Demetrius cut in to say that the point of the discussion was to identify issues that should be discussed rather than to discuss them now.

Barbara recommended that we examine the persons who maintain membership and those who become inactive and try to determine why they do not remain active.

3. Funding of the Emeriti Fellowships. We know that we have money allocated for this purpose but we also use some of our own money. Should there be fund-raising for this purpose? If so, what kinds of efforts should be involved? Should money from annual dues be used for fellowships or should they be used for other activities for emeriti, i.e. social events or sponsoring a speaker? Generally, what are we doing with our money?

Barbara said that there were a lot of areas that we might deal with at the retreat but those three areas might get the discussion off the ground.

Demetrius suggested that it was important to focus the discussion on what we can realistically do, because of these issues were thoroughly discussed in the last retreat and we did not follow through. It is one thing to have ideas and another to carry them through. He recommended that we be honest and frank about what we can realistically take on and accomplish.

Leon recommended that we consider the make-up of the Executive Committee, i.e. whether we need expanded membership. Do we need non-executive committee committees? Do we need ad-hoc committees of various sorts to undertake some of these things? Is it realistic to ask members of the Association who are not on the Executive Committee to undertake some of these jobs?

Demetrius recommended that we search for ways of expanding the number of persons actively involved beyond the Executive Committee, suggesting that we might consider revising the Constitution. If it is not mandated that Executive Committee members perform certain functions why not make a special effort to recruit others?

Frieda noted that our ability to draw non-executive committee members in or to have new Executive Committee members appointed seems to be inversely proportional to the square of distance they live from campus.

Barbara said that the Retreat Planning Committee would determine the fee to pay the facilitator and how to pay her.

Lou then said that there was pressing business involving the spring meeting. He said that we needed to select a speaker and that Don Dewey; the new President of CSU-ERFA would make an excellent choice. Lou suggested that Don could provide current information on the legislation affecting benefits and pensions, a topic that would probably draw a large audience because of the self-interest of members and prospective members of the Association. Don said that he would give the talk but that Ted Anagnoson, Bob Kully and Harold Goldwhite would also be available to answer questions. It was m/s/p that Don Dewey be invited to speak at the spring Meeting. Friday, May 4th was set as the date of the spring meeting.

Barbara asked for a current directory of the Executive Committee. Harold Cohen said that he would mail one to all members.

Barbara also said that she had information on the health care system that was being proposed by the Governor and said that she would provide copies to anyone interested.

**4.2              Past President:  Barbara Sinclair**

No report.

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

No report.

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

Lupe invited members to attend the reception after the Senate. Lou said that the program will include brief presentations about the exhibit.

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

Bill circulated the Treasurer’s Report. He stated that since the last report we have received $495 in dues and $1,700 in fellowship funds, $1500 from the Smallenburg family and $200 from Lois M. Rhinesperger. The expenses were for the *Emeritimes* work.

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

 Not present/no report.

**4.6  OLLI:  Peter Brier**

Not present. Barbara circulated the winter schedule for OLLI and a form to be submitted by anyone interested in offering a course in the program. Barbara encouraged anyone interested to submit a proposal and said that Connie Corley would probably be coming to a meeting in the near future to discuss the program.

**4.7  Historian/Archivist: Leon Schwartz**

Leon reported that he completed volume two of the photo history of the Association. He circulated it and said that he would be putting both volumes out at a table at the reception. He said that he was still looking for photographs of members of the association both at work and at play, i.e. traveling, engaged in special interest activities, etc.

**4.8  Corresponding Secretary: Marilyn Friedman**

Marilyn sent a condolence card to the family of Leonard Adams (Physical Education). She asked if there were any other cards that should be sent out. Frieda said that a card should be sent to the husband of Matilde Castells (Spanish).

            **4.9 Membership Secretary: Karen Johnson**

Karen sent a mailing to everyone who did not renew their membership. She said that several of the envelopes were returned as undeliverable but that we have pulled in some members.

* 1. **Webmaster: Demetrius Margaziotis**

The website is up to date and now includes some pictures from the Gormley Exhibit/Reception. Demetrius reported that the Emeriti Activities on the website is quite dated. He requested that persons report their recent and current activities so that they may be posted. If he does not receive fresher submissions, he suggests deleting that section.

**4.12 Secretary: William Darrough**

No Report.

**4.13 Database Coordinator: Harold Cohen**

No further report.

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

Frieda reported that although the Winter *Emeritimes* was successfully completed, mailed and received, serious production pressures have emerged. They have to work around exigencies of work going on in Ellen’s office and in Dennis’s office. They work on their own time and, on occasion, must put aside the *Emeritimes* and concentrate on their normal workload. Occasionally this means that a mailing session may have to be postponed at the last minute. Frieda said, however, that they have never missed an event, and it is the events that drive the issuance of the newsletter.

The spring issue will include obituaries of Norm Gosenfeld (Geography), Matilde Castells (Spanish) and Leonard Adams (P.E.).

Don Dewey said that he would admonish all Presidents of the association to put out a yearly reminder that there is a difference between CSU-ERFA and the CSULA Emeriti Association. People are regularly confused and think that they have joined our association by “check-off” when they have only joined CSU-ERFA. Then when we come along later to solicit membership, some people resent it and don’t want to be bothered. Don suggested that a reminder might be published **annually** in a box in *Emeritimes*.

**4.15          CSULA Academic Senate: Don Dewey**

Don said that the agenda for today’s Senate meeting was better than those at some of the recent meetings. In order to ensure a good turnout, Don suggested to Kevin Baaske a presentation on the science complex to tie in with recent successful presentations made on the new student union and the band shell that will be constructed on Greenlee Plaza. Desdemona Cardoza will make the presentation. There is a first reading resolution on the CFA contract. This is in support of the statewide Senate’s resolution. There is a second reading on academic honesty that is a response by the Student Policy Committee to Senate charge of August 30th, 2005.

Since the last meeting there have been minor changes initiated by President Rosser in the Research Scholarships and Creative Activity Awards Policy.

**4.16     CSU Academic Senate: Harold Goldwhite**

 The CSU Academic Senate met in January and the committees met last week. As mentioned earlier, the Senate passed a resolution urging CFA and CSU to get together and settle the contract. There was a resolution on more faculty involvement in governance and how campuses might support that. There were technical resolutions about the new Ed.D. degree and the needed support from it.

There was also a good deal of discussion of the impact of advanced technology on classrooms and what to do about it. They discussed matters that surfaced in the LA Times recently, i.e. students taking cell-phones videos of professors and classroom activities and posting them on U-Tube. It appears that professors can do very little about it. You can put warnings in your syllabuses, but to try to track them down and involve them in some sort of disciplinary procedure seems to be rather hopeless. The same is true of the content of your classes. You may not want to post it, but students may anyway. You have virtually no control over it because the technology is moving so much faster than the law. Harold said that it was an interesting discussion but with no resolution.

There were two significant appearances before the Senate: 1) The Chair of the Board came in and spent an hour and a half in a series of exchanges that Harold found to be amicable and reasonable on what is going on at the Board level, what the Senate’s concerns are and a bit on the contract 2) The Chancellor came in and talked very briefly about the budget and about some outreach activities. The Chair asked if there were any questions for the Chancellor. Harold reported that, for the first time in his experiences, there were no questions. He thought that it was an expression of distain. The Chancellor then left quickly.

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

Don Dewey said that there will be a meeting of the CSU-ERFA Executive Committee later this week and there will be a report on that at the next meeting.

**5.0              Unfinished Business**

* 1. **Proposal to change Exec Committee meeting agenda so that Unfinished and New Business can be dealt with earlier in meetings: Demetrius Margaziotis.**

Harold Cohen said that, since today we moved some unfinished business up to be dealt with early in the agenda, there does exist a mechanism to deal with urgent business in a timely manner. He suggested that the meeting had moved quite efficiently to address pressing issues. Demetrius replied that today might have gone well but that we habitually spend 90% of our time reporting on items that are not always actionable. What are actionable, i.e. new business or unfinished business ends up being given two or three minutes at the end of the meeting. He suggested that unfinished business be moved forward in the agenda.

Harold Goldwhite asked who sets the agenda? He did not recall any bylaws or constitutional constraints that set the agenda. He suggested that the agenda is a historical accident. Don said that such matters were dealt with earlier in the past, but that the Committee had reversed the order on what he suggested was an experimental basis and that the order could be reversed again by the Committee. Harold Goldwhite suggested that the matter was determined by the sense of the Committee. Lou asked if there was any action desired on this matter.

Frieda said that she would try a motion as an experiment. She moved that the item “unfinished business” appear between approval of the minutes and the officer and committee reports. Harold Cohen noted that such a move would routinely move unfinished business that might not be pressing or important ahead of reports that might be more important and pressing. He suggested that, if such business is deemed pressing and important, members have a means of moving it up in the agenda on a case-by-case basis. He urged members to reject the motion. The motion m/s/f.

**6.0        New Business**

* 1. **Request for a report on the publication status of Sid Albert’s history of the CSULA Emeriti Association: Sid Albert.**

Sid Albert reported that his house was flooded and that the status his archives of CSU-ERFA and the CSULA Emeriti Association may have been damaged. It will take time to determine the extent of damage. He suggested that possible damage to those documents makes publication of his history even more pressing.

Sid requested a report on the status of publication of his history of the Association. He said that he understood that about a year ago, the Executive Committee had voted to publish the history in *Emeritimes*, but that nothing had appeared. He also questioned the appropriateness of publishing it in *Emeritimes,* with their limited space, rather than as an independent publication of the Association. He said that his 93rd birthday is coming up in a couple of months and that it would be a nice present to have it published then.

Frieda informed Sid that the original motion was publish, not the original manuscript but an edited version that already exists. She said that the Association had already printed a number of copies and gave them to Sid. She agreed with Sid that the *Emeritimes* is not the appropriate venue in that she could never free up enough space to publish the manuscript. She said that an edited version of themanuscript from which only personal comments have been excised is still on her computer and, she believes, also on Yuri Watanabe’s computer. Frieda said that the manuscript is a history of the beginnings of the Association, not a history of its 30 years. She said that if Sid wished to have that document published, the Executive Committee would have to consider its production and dissemination as well as the matter of cost.

Leon reported that the materials that may have been damaged by the flood at Sid’s house are primarily his copies of documents that are safely stored in the Archives at two locations on campus, but that there are also some documents that he has never seen. Leon observed that the Association’s 30th anniversary was approaching in February 2008 and suggested that this matter be given additional consideration and consider possibly releasing the document as part of our celebration of the 30th anniversary. Leon suggested that we revisit the matter when planning for that anniversary.

Harold recommended that the Association take possession of the archival materials in Sid’s possession and that a subcommittee be appointed to cull them for materials that should be retained in the official archives. Lou said that arrangements would be made to transfer the materials as soon as Sid is able to make them available.

Sid then said that he is going to remember the organization when he prepared his Trust and recommended that other member consider leaving assets to the organization. Members of the Committee expressed gratitude to Sid both for his seminal role in establishing the organization and for the donation he said he was intending to make.

Frieda then moved to verify Sid’s wishes about publishing the history. She asked
Sid if he was asking the Association to publish the history separately from *Emeritimes,* but then distributed to the readership as an enclosure. Sid said that that was his wish. Frieda said that the matter should be agendized for the March meeting.

**7.0       Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 p.m.