




# UCRAB

University of California  
Retirees' Association at  
Berkeley 

*Spring 2024*

## UCRAB Board Nominations

The UCRAB Board of Directors is seeking nominations for President, Vice President, Secretary, and 3 at-large board positions. Board Members serve two year terms effective July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, but the Secretary will only serve one year. In addition to providing advocacy for staff and non-senate academic appointees at the Office of the President and State of California legislature, UCRAB currently offers virtual events featuring interesting speakers on scholarly, cultural and topical content. We look forward to returning to hosting social events, quarterly luncheons, and day trips.

The Board's objectives are to:

- Provide information about benefits and other issues that are useful to Retirees;
- Promote opportunities for interaction and communication among Retirees
- Assist retirees in continuing to be of service to the University.

We are seeking individuals who will enrich the board's diversity with their experience and skills. Specifically, knowledge of communications, event planning, speaker engagement and fundraising are desired. Individuals can nominate themselves or they can nominate others. Nominations should include the following information: name, year

retired, department/unit at time of retirement, functions of prior position/s, e.g. financial, operations, fundraising, management, etc.

Please submit nominations to UCRAB Vice President Marty Takimoto, [takimoto@berkeley.edu](mailto:takimoto@berkeley.edu) no later than **April 30, 2024**. Questions about UCRAB and how it works can be sent to the above address.

## Report from CUCRA and CUCEA

Twice a year, the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) and the Council of UC Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) meet to hear about what is happening at Office of the President relating to retirees; to get updates on current and future retiree benefits; and to share information and experiences at the campuses and the National Labs.

In October 2023, the meeting was hosted by UC Davis as an in-person and virtual hybrid. On the first morning, both organizations met and were welcomed by UC Davis Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor **Mary Crogan**. This was followed by a summary of high priority issues for Retirees:

- 1) The Fall 2023 Report of the Joint Benefits Committee (JBC) [here](#) was discussed. The JBC identifies and reports on benefit issues that have arisen or that are continuing points of pain. The newly created Retiree/Emeriti Advisory Committee, which reports directly to Vice President of Human Resources, **Cheryl Lloyd**, will engage with university officials to facilitate open communication, clarify program

objectives and promote efficient and effective program administration. A new UCOP team will be undertaking a benefits survey of both employees and retirees. A Request for Proposal is being considered to develop a “Total Remuneration Plan.” Other issues included VIA benefits, COLA’s, RASC and its current effectiveness, and Savings Plans returns.

2) Interim Executive Director of Benefit **Susan Pon-Gee** reviewed the Open Enrollment/Health Benefits changes. The increases for retirees are not as significant as for employees.

3) The UC Vice Provost for Academic Personnel and Programs **Douglas Haynes** urged the group to stay connected to the University, to reach out to fellow retirees and emeriti, and get them involved in volunteer activities. And finally, to help advocate for the University since University-affiliated retiree voices are particularly powerful.

4) **Sue Barnes**, Director of the UC Retirees Travel program provided an overview that showed its success in raising revenue for CUCRA, the numbers of trips and participants, and the desire to involve the campus retirement centers in publicity and outreach.

At the CUCRA meeting the following day, Barnes provided further detail on the travel program, reporting that in 2023 17 trips were conducted. The program earns money based on the number of travelers on the trips and is projected to bring in \$59,000.

UC Retirement System Investment Directors discussed investment strategies, specifically the Savings Plans. These haven’t kept pace with inflation nor with STIP. The speakers offered a number of options to address the problem. Members were asked for feedback on the hybrid meeting format including lessons learned. Not every campus can support a hybrid meeting due to limited technology, available venue space and increased expenses, including the hidden costs of staff devoting considerable time to these events in addition to their normal workload.

UC San Diego is hosting the spring meeting, and it will be via Zoom.

## Travel the World with UC Retirees

Wouldn’t it be fun to have a group of UC Berkeley retirees traveling together?



UC Retirees’ Travel is sponsored by the Council for UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA), a nonprofit organization comprised of volunteer representatives from each University of California retiree association. Funds generated by the travel program support CUCRA’s advocacy efforts as well as the retiree associations at each UC location.

UC Retirees’ Travel escorts are University of California retirees who volunteer to assist UC travelers before and during our worldwide group tours. The maximum number of travelers on our tours ranges from 16 for small group tours to 44 for standard size tours. Trips may be UC-exclusive, or UC travelers may join others as part of a larger group. Friends and family are also welcome.

The travel program has been highly successful and as such has recruited two new escorts to represent their campuses; **Elise Woods** from UC Berkeley (current CUCRA Treasurer and UCB CUCRA representative) and **Sabina White** from UCSB. Elise and Sabina will help to publicize the travel program, assist travelers with pre-trip questions/information, support the commercial tour operators’ trip leaders and our travelers during the tours, and prepare a post-trip summary report. During trips, escorts serve as the UC “conciierge” and act as the connecting link to ensure the engagement and enjoyment of the UC trip participants. Elise will be the escort on the following trips:

- Alpine Lakes and Scenic Trains – September 10-20, 2024
- Tropical Costa Rica - January 31-February 8, 2025
- Danube: Prague-Budapest - April 19-May 3, 2025
- Coasts and Countrysides of England – 14 days, September 2025 TBD (not yet posted on the website)

## Untamed Iceland, September 4-17, 2024

*Overseas Adventure Travel - 16 or fewer travelers*  
Glaciers, waterfalls, geysers, hot springs and more  
[Click here details.](#)

*Escort: UCSB retiree Sabina White*

**We need just four more people for this to be an exclusive UC Retirees Travel trip. OAT will hold our spaces until April 19, 2024.**

Register for the 2nd trip of **Kingdoms of South East Asia** leaving on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Because this trip is so popular, Collette has created a limited-edition trip for UC Retirees' Travel for a small group of 16. This trip is already half full, but there is currently no waiting list.

**UC Retirees Travel - Trip Preview**  
*Wednesday, May 22, 10 a.m. via Zoom*

UC Retirees Travel offers a variety of worldwide group tours for the University of California's retired staff and faculty, as well as friends and family. Join the group's volunteers for a preview of their upcoming trips, including adventures to Iceland, Southeast Asia, Montreal & Quebec, the Galapagos, Costa Rica, Finland, Italy (two different itineraries), Northern Spain & Portugal, Africa, and France, as well as a Danube River cruise and an Albania-Greece small ship adventure. This webinar is hosted by the UC Santa Barbara Emeriti + Retirees Center, and everyone is welcome to attend.

[Register for the trip preview webinar](#)

## Volunteers Needed for CUCRA Survey

The Council of University of California Retiree Associations (CUCRA) conducts a survey of staff and non-Senate academics every three years. The survey is scheduled to be sent out Fall 2024.

CUCRA is currently putting together the survey committee. Although the survey instrument itself has been developed, there is a need to fill a variety of roles. Most importantly, they need a project manager. In addition, the other two most important roles are data analysis and a writer for the report. Communication to the campuses and to the retirees is also an important element. Many of these

communication tools and timeline have been developed.

If you or someone you know might be interested in participating, using the skills and knowledge you gained as an active employee, please contact Patti Owen at plowen@berkeley.edu.

## President's Message



As the fiscal year winds down, I want to report out on UC CRAB activities. We had a very successful luncheon in late October. Over 40 people joined us at the Golden Bear Center for a presentation by **Ford Roosevelt** of the USS

Potomac Association on the history of the "floating White House" during the administration of his grandfather, Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He was joined by **Harvey Smith**, who is one of the founders of the Living New Deal Association.

This was our first event since the end of the pandemic, and everyone was happy to get together with old and new friends. The UC CRAB board is busy planning other events for the rest of the year, including a bay cruise on the USS Potomac.

An article on UC CRAB elections is in this newsletter. This is your chance to get involved and give something back to the campus community. And last, but not least, the Annual Renegade Retirees' Picnic will once again be held at Tilden Park in July.

I wish everyone a Happy Spring.

*Patti Owen*

UC CRAB President

## Keep in Touch!

### UCRAB

Email [UCRAB@berkeley.edu](mailto:UCRAB@berkeley.edu)

[www retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab](http://www.retirement.berkeley.edu/ucrab)

Facebook UCRAB - University of California Retirees' Association at Berkeley

### UC Berkeley Retirement Center

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[www: retirement.berkeley.edu](http://www.retirement.berkeley.edu)

## In Memoriam

Following are those staff and non-Senate academic employees of the Berkeley campus who have passed away since our last newsletter.



Art Leon	Benefits Analyst 3
Jaime Lufkin	Principal Illustrator
Jonnie Macias	_____ Assistant I
Elizabeth Maestas	Auditor I
Mariwyn McComb	Clinical Nurse II
Masae Namba	Staff Research Associate II
Richard Neumaier	Optometrist
Margaret Rita	Financial Services Analyst 2
Adrienne Ross	Records Analyst 2
Tempie Sanders	Assistant Cook
Mary Storelli*	
Richard Takahashi	Staff Research Associate II
Donald Toro	Development Technician IV
Dorothy Williams	Custodian
Suzanne Wood	Senior Clerk/Secretary
Carolyn Zalon	Research Administrator 3

\*Title at time of retirement is not available

Duke Alegre	Police Officer
Barbara Borowick	Records Analyst 3
Emily Buker	_____ Assistant I
Clay Clayworth*	
Anastasia Conley	_____Assistant III
Barbara Cooper	Buyer V
Anne Fay	_____Assistant III
Austin Frank*	
Jeanine Castro Govan*	
Kay Hotchkiss	_____ Assistant II
Dolores Jackson	Recreation Instructor
Harriet Kuroiwa	Administrative Officer 2
Marilyn Kushner	R&D Engineer 2