



## February 2022

### Advocacy



One of the most important roles that UCRAB undertakes is that of advocacy. Issues come up at different times which impact retirees. These may include retiree health benefits, retirement benefits for future retirees, or general

issues which impact the university.

Issues are identified in a variety of ways. They may come from retirees who are experiencing bureaucratic difficulties or from actions taken or proposed by UC Office of the President (UCOP) or by the State Legislature. These may include the non-responsiveness of the Retirement Administrative Services Center (RASC); the change to prescription drug coverage; the change in health benefits, etc.

Experience has shown that UCOP is more responsive to issues when addressed by the collective voices of the retiree association, such as UCRAB, from all of the campuses, UCOP, and the national labs. The staff retirees are represented by CUCRA (the Council of UC Retiree Associations) and faculty retirees by CUCEA (the Council of UC Emeriti Associations). These two groups partner on all the major issues affecting retirees. Clearly the most important of these is benefits. To that end, there is a body called the Joint Benefits Committee which consists of representatives from both

CUCRA and CUCEA, as well as, a few at large members. JBC writes two reports a year which address concerns and issues of retirees. These reports are shared with the appropriate personnel at UCOP in addition to the members of CUCRA and CUCEA. The expectation is that UCOP will address the items of concern.

In addition to the JBC, issues and concerns can be raised through direct appeal by individuals to UCOP or to the State Legislature. For example, a few years ago, UCOP had prepared a Regents' item which would have eliminated the PPO health plans. It was put on the Regents' agenda, but a sharp eyed retiree from UCLA saw the item, sounded the alarm, and UCOP pulled the item from the agenda. Berkeley emeriti and staff retirees jumped in and started a letter writing campaign to UCOP; other campuses soon joined in. As a result, the PPO plans were retained.

UCRAB will continue to communicate concerns through the appropriate channels, to communicate with you on major issues, and to advocate on your behalf.

Stay safe and take care,

*Patti Owen*

UCRAB President

## UCRAB Board of Directors Election

The UCRAB Board of Directors is seeking nominations for 1-2 at-large board positions, two year terms effective July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024.

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, day trips and overnight travel opportunities.

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 an individual 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 **Nancy Horton** [njhorton0120@gmail.com](mailto:njhorton0120@gmail.com) no later than **April 15, 2022**.

Questions can be sent to the above email address.

## Travel Opportunities



The Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA), of which UCRAB is a member, offers a travel program, UC Retiree Travel. This program offers extraordinary trips through major travel agencies such

as Collette Travel and Overseas Travel Associates (OAT). While the cost of these trips is not discounted for UC retirees, they do provide a monetary benefit back to CUCRA for all bookings. In addition, if there are a sufficient number of enrollee for a particular trip, a UC retiree will serve as an escort to help with issues that might arise before and during the trip.

If you are looking to start traveling, we encourage you to review the offerings of this program and to have the opportunity to connect with your fellow UC retirees. Here is a link to the offerings:

<http://cucra.ucsd.edu/travel/>

## In Memoriam

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

Carol Carr, Editor

Pai Chang, Associate Librarian

Gerald Hayward, Academic Coordinator II

Nathanial Johnston, Programmer/Analyst III

Carole Lambert, \_\_\_\_\_ Assistant II

Craig Long, Programmer/Analyst I

Michael Nelson, Senior Building Maintenance Worker

Kiyoko Phillips, Senior Library Bookbinder-Supervisor

Barbara Radke, Principal Administrative Analyst I

David Seybolt, Senior Edition Bookbinder

Doris Smith, Assistant Director

Norman Storr, Inspector-Planner-Estimator

Russell Seufert \*

Barry Waldman \*

Lillie Young, \_\_\_\_\_Assistant III

\*Title at time of retirement is not available