



UCRAB

University of California
Retirees' Association at
Berkeley



Summer 2022

President's Message

In April, the semi-annual meeting of the Council of UC Retiree Associations (CUCRA) met via Zoom. In addition to our meeting, we held a joint meeting with the Council of UC Emeriti Associations (CUCEA). In the last newsletter, I addressed the issue of advocacy by the retiree associations, including UCRAB. It is at these meetings where issues of concern to retirees are raised with senior administrators at UC Office of the President.

The highlight of the joint meeting was a conversation with UC President Michael Drake. He first discussed the chaotic rollout of Navitus, the new UC Pharmacy Benefits Manager. They have an action plan in place to address deficiencies, so stay tuned. He announced that UC is in conversation with the Governor to have a long term contract with UC that would increase our budget 5% year over year and would fully fund any increased enrollments.

President Drake shared his goals/aims: 1) to have a debt free path to BS/BA degree by 2025 by having students work part-time; 2) to be carbon neutral by 2025 and fossil free by 2035; and 3) to cover the tuition and fees of California Native Americans in federally recognized tribes.

The Joint Benefits Committee of CUCRA/CUCEA writes a report for each meeting, found here: <http://cucra.ucsd.edu/meetings/2022-04Meeting/Documents/2022-04JBC-Report.pdf>

Health Benefits are always a concern, especially for those living out of state. VIA Benefits provides up to \$3000 annually for health insurance, a figure that has not been increased since the program was initiated over 10 years ago. The report also addressed the Navitus issue. Another major concern is the continued responsiveness of the Retirement Administration Services Center (RASC). At the end of 2021, the new director was on a path to addressing many of the issues and delays when the problems with Navitus in January tied up their phones and staff. With additional staff and new systems/processes in place, it is hoped that this retirement season goes smoother. One big issue to be addressed during the coming year is the Return/Recall to Active Duty policies. UC has identified a possible conflict with the ACA for those who are recalled and will work on solutions during the coming year.

In addition to formal presentations during these meetings, there is a lot of sharing of information and programs. UCRAB will be reviewing this information and developing new programs/opportunities for retirees. Information on the meetings, meeting documents and reports are all available at cucra.ucsd.edu.

As the academic year draws to a close, I wish everyone a healthy, fun, and safe summer.

Patti Owen

UCRAB President

UCRAB Board Holds Election

UCRAB elects five members annually to replace or reinstate positions on our 10-11 member board. The board is elected by UCRAB general membership at our June meeting. All staff and non-academic senate retirees who are present may vote. No additional nominations resulted from our February request, but at the June 30 business meeting we will again seek nominations from the floor before holding the election.

Five members, **Patti Owen, David Duer, Kurt Libby, Marty Takimoto** and **Valerie Ventre-Hutton** seek reelection.

Board members continuing terms through 2023 are **Secretary Marian Gade, Treasurer Elise Woods, At-large Director Sue Gettinger, At-large Director Barinder Dhillon-Flanagan** and **At-large Director Alma Valencia Gross**. Vice President **Nancy Horton** will not seek an additional term. **The nomination committee proposes the following slate of candidates for election to two-year terms from July 2022 through June 2024:**

President: Patti Owen



Patti is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara and began work at Berkeley in 1975 in the Academic Personnel Office. She spent 10 years in the Engineering Dean's Office, almost five years at Office of the President, and over 15 years in Academic

Personnel. She retired in 2009 as the Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Personnel. She has been a member of the UC Berkeley Retirement Center Board since 2011 and has served as its chair. She joined UCRAB in 2015 and is currently its President.

Vice President: Marty Takimoto



Marty graduated from Cal in 1979. He enjoyed a 34-year career in student services and student affairs, serving in increasingly important roles ranging from a pre-admissions advisor to Director of Communications

and Marketing, Residential and Student Service Programs. Marty was on the Cal intramural fastpitch softball championship team two years in a row, and he retired in 2015.

At-large Director: David Duer



Dave's 30-year career with the University was focused on development and fundraising programs with the Berkeley College of Engineering, the UC Davis Health System, and the Berkeley University Library. He is a member of Berkeley's Centennial Class

of 1968. He has a graduate degree from the University of Southern California. Dave serves on The Faculty Club Board and has been on the UCRAB board for three years, leading the fundraising effort.

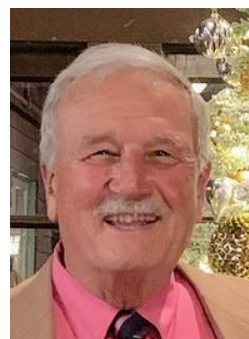
At-large Director: Valerie Ventre-Hutton



Valerie began her Berkeley career in 2002 after a career in the private sector. Her first position was in the Human Resources Office where she served as the Employee Relations Manager. In 2007, she transferred to the College of Engineering to become the HR Director. Before retiring

in June 2020, Valerie had been an HR manager for Campus Shared Services.

At-large Director: Kurt Libby



Kurt graduated from the University of Minnesota. He has a BA in English and an MS in Management. He spent 30 years as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Following the Navy, he spent five years as a consultant before coming to UC Berkeley in 1999 as Director of Material

Management. Kurt retired in 2013.

Wendy Hollis, Campus Architect, to Speak

We will host a talk by the campus architect, Wendy Hollis, on the 2022 campus plan.

Our collective memory as retirees includes the construction, renovation or demolition of many Berkeley campus buildings. Wendy's presentation may surprise – or delight – us when she reveals the upcoming plans.

The talk is scheduled for **June 30, 12:45-2:00 pm via Zoom**. Please see the article in the *CenterExpress* for registration.

In addition to the talk, UCRAB will hold a very brief meeting to elect new board members. Anyone who is a retiree from Berkeley is considered a member and eligible to vote.

Renegade Retiree Picnic

The 6th annual Renegade Retiree Picnic will once again be held at **Tilden Park on July 12**. UCRAB is happy to be a participant in this annual event. Details and Registration information can be found in the June *CenterExpress*. We hope you can join us to meet up with your former colleagues and to meet retirees from the other 3 retiree associations: the ExL's from the Berkeley Lab, the Berkeley Emeriti (UCBEA) and UC Office of the President (PARRA).



In Memoriam

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

Joseph Azzolino, Auditor IV

Claude Babcock *

John Baker, ___Assistant II

Eugene Carpenter, Electrician

Yoshiko Dykstra *

Carlos Fajardo, Custodian

Wendell Hogg, Mail Service Supervisor

Kevin Hurley *

Neal Melton *

Ivory Murphy, Senior Custodian Leader

John Newell III, Scene Technician

Jane L. Scheiber, Assistant Dean College Relations

Virginia Sorenson, Director (Functional Area)

Ronald Viegelah, Senior Electronics Technician

*Title at time of retirement is not available