



Summer 2024

2024 UCRAB Board Election

UCRAB elects five members annually to replace or reinstate positions on our 10 member board. The board is elected by UCRAB general membership in person at our June meeting. All staff and non-academic senate retirees who are present are eligible to vote.

At the June business meeting to be held June 18 at The Faculty Club, we will also seek nominations from the floor before holding the election.

Two members, **Kurt Libby and Marty Takimoto** seek reelection. Two members, **Elise Woods** and **Patti Owen** seek election to other positions.

Board members continuing terms ending in 2025 are **At-large Director Marian Gade** and **at-large Director Alma Valencia Gross**.

At-large Directors David Duer and Valerie Ventre-Hutton will not seek an additional term and will step down. The UCRAB Board and UC Retirement Center thanks Dave and Valerie for their contributions to the board.

The nominations committee proposes the following candidates for election to two-year term from July 2024 through June 2026:

President: Elise Woods

Elise Woods, has been the treasurer of the UC Berkeley Retirees' Association (UCRAB) since 2018, the UCRAB CUCRA representative from 2018, the UCRAB CUCRA representative from 2023, UC Retirees Travel trip escort, 2024, and a

UC Davis alumna. Elise's 36-year career in the UC system covered a broad range of administrative roles. Retired in 2018, she worked on three campuses, UCSB, UCOP, and UCB, where in her last role she was the chief administrative officer of the UCB Libraries.

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. He is currently the Vice President.

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. He retired in 2013. He has served on the UCRAB since 2020

At-large Director: Andy Yang

Andy received his A.B from Berkeley and his J.D. from Harvard Law School. Over the years he has held a number of positions, first at Harvard, and

then at four different UC campuses (Berkeley, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Irvine.) Most of his positions have been in the development/fundraising area. He served as Assistant Dean for Advancement at Berkeley from 2008-2010. He hopes his experience at the different UC campuses will bring a new perspective to the board.

The nominations committee proposes the following candidate for election to a one-year term from July 2024 through June 2025:

Secretary: 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 has served as President for the past 4 years.

Report from CUCRA and CUCEA

CUCRA, Council of UC Retiree Associations, along with the Council of Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) met April 23-25, 2024, via Zoom. The first morning was a joint meeting where we had a conversation with Nathan Brostrom, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, at UC Office of the President. He reported on the budget (not good news) and the debacle of FAFSA (the federal student financial aid form.) He took a number of questions related to faculty/staff housing, the campus protests, and the budget. Then the Associate Vice President for Total Rewards, Jay Henderson, outlined some upcoming RFPs (Request for Proposals) as they relate to compensation and employee satisfaction. He expects the projects will be deployed in the Fall. Susan Pon-Gee, the Interim Executive Director of Benefits outlined the 2024 Health Care Planning. There will be no changes to health plan providers. The service provided by the Retirement Administrative Services Center (RASC) has been problematic for several years. The Executive Director, Bernadette Green, presented a number of slides showing the current state of the unit, including the number of contacts, time it takes to process retirement forms, etc. Sue Barnes, the

volunteer director of the CUCRA Travel Program, said that the program offered over 20 trips and earned CUCRA about \$60,000 last year.

On the second morning, CUCRA met. The Chair provided an update of activities since the last meeting. The participants then discussed the issues presented the day before. Many of the documents discussed at both meetings can be found at: <https://cucra.ucsd.edu/meetings/2024-04/documents.html>. Of special interest is the report of the Joint Benefits Committee.

The next meeting is **October 30-31** and will be a hybrid meeting hosted by UC Santa Cruz.

Travel the World with UC Retirees

[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 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.

UC Retirees Travel - On May 22, 2024 UCSB Emeriti hosted a UC Retirees Travel Talk via Zoom. If you were unable to attend or if you have friends or family who would like to view the webinar, [click here to view the recording](#).

2024 Trips: Some of the 2024 trips still have availability. [Visit the 2024 trip detail page](#), for information on these trips. For the SE Asia trips, contact Dolores Dyer, ddyer44@verizon.net, to inquire about availability. For the other trips, contact the tour operators directly.

2025 Trips: Many of the 2025 trips are starting to fill, but there are still plenty of options. [Visit the 2025 trip detail page](#) to see all of the trips on the schedule.

Register Early: Many of the trips fill quickly, so early registration is advised.

FAQs: Before registering for a trip, we recommend that you review our [frequently-asked questions](#).

If trips are full or we don't offer what you want: OAT and Collette both offer a discount if you mention our group when you register for any of their trips. While you wouldn't be traveling with our group, each of these tour operators provide a dedicated local tour leader who is with you throughout the entire trip.

Grand Circle Travel/Overseas Adventure Travel: Receive a \$100 per person discount by mentioning group #28708. [Visit their website](#).

Collette: Receive a \$50 per person discount by mentioning group #16463-7. [Visit their website](#).

If you need more information about any of our Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) or Premier trips after reviewing the trip flyers and frequently-asked questions on our website, please email ucretirestravel@gmail.com to reach Sue Barnes, the UC Retirees Travel liaison for these two tour operators. If you need more information about our Collette trips after reviewing the website, please email Dolores Dyer, ddyer44@verizon.net, the UC Retirees Travel liaison for Collette.

We hope to see you on a trip in the future.

Happy travels,

Elise Woods

UCB UC Retirees Escort, UCRAB Treasurer, UCB CUCEA Representative



UCRAB Luncheon

Join us for lunch and meet with fellow retirees on **Tuesday, June 18 at 11:30 at the Berkeley Faculty Club**. Purchase your lunch in the Great Hall lunch line. We will have a short business meeting to elect board members for the next year.

In addition to the Grill and Sandwich Stations, the Great Hall Lunch Line offers a daily choice of hot entrée special, soup special, sandwich special and three salads. Beverages, including wine, are available. Please RSVP so that we know the number of attendees.

[Click here to RSVP](#)



Sail on the Bay with Us!

Ahoy to all our retirees!! Coming soon to a dock near us – a Sunday afternoon 'Music on the Bay Cruise' on the USS Potomac.



Our two-hour cruise will feature the Charlie Wade Blues Band. Circle **Sunday August 25th, at 3:00 p.m.** on your calendars - all the ticket (@ \$55ea) and sign-up details will follow soon!

The USS Potomac is based in Jack London Square in Oakland, near the 880 freeway with parking nearby.

Renegade Retiree Picnic

The 8th annual Renegade Retiree Picnic will once again be held at **Tilden Park on July 10**. UCRAB is happy to be a participant in this annual event. We hope you can join us to meet up with your former colleagues, new retirees, and retirees from the other 3 retiree associations: the EX-Ls from the Berkeley Lab, PARRA from the UC Office of the President, and the Berkeley Emeriti (UCBEA). We hope to see you there! [Click here to RSVP](#).



Retiree Reception

On Friday, May 3, 2024, the Retirement Center hosted a festive reception for faculty and staff who will retire by July 1 from Berkeley, LBNL and UCOP. Chancellor Carol Christ joined the reception to provide the opening remarks made special by the fact that Chancellor Christ will also retire by the end of June. Vice Provost for the Faculty Victoria Plaut and Associate Vice Chancellor Eugene Whitlock thanked the soon-to-retire attendees for their service to the university.



Cary Sweeney, Director of the Retirement Center, handed Chancellor Christ a large copy of her

Retirement ID. It was a beautiful and sunny afternoon on the Faculty Glade and the crowd of about 60 active and retired faculty and staff from UCB, LBNL and UCOP enjoyed each other's company and celebrated the transition to this next phase of their lives.

Happy Hour

On Thursday, May 23, retirees from Berkeley and LBNL gathered at Cornerstone in Berkeley for a Happy Hour. We saw many new faces and met retirees from all corners of the campus and the hill. It was great connecting with former colleagues and putting names to faces. Attendees purchased their own libations, and UCRAB provided delicious appetizers—deep fried mac and cheese bites? Yum. UCRAB will definitely be repeating this event where we hope many of you will come out to meet and greet other retirees.

Our thanks to Marty Takimoto who organized this event.



In Memoriam

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

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Lenora Avila | Assistant III |
| Leslie Benz | Financial Services Supervisor 2 |
| Marion Bracket | Management Services Officer I |
| Shirley Caselle | Assistant I |
| Chi Chen | Librarian |
| Nada Clarkson | Assistant III |
| Emil Dupras | Staff Research Associate II |
| Jesse Figueroa | Stationary Engineer |
| Virginia Fowler | Assistant III |
| John Gibson | * |

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Kenneth Glines | Senior Architect |
| Ann Goto | Records Analyst 2 |
| Connie Heinrich | Administrative Analyst |
| Barbara Kornstein | Associate University Librarian |
| Susan Meyer | Assistant I |
| Karen Milligan | * |
| James Sharp | Programmer Analyst I |
| Margaret Smith | Specialist |
| Mark Swanson | Assistant III |
| David Weldon | Principal Administrative Analyst II |

*Title at time of retirement is not available



Keep in Touch!

UCRAB

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