

DRAFT

“The Continuing University: An Emeriti Resource Center” *

UCSC faculty are retiring earlier and in greater numbers than they have in the past: in the next ten years, the number of Emeriti will more than double. Although retired faculty are generally pleased to be free of onerous obligations, many of us would like to retain our connection to a university that we helped to create and that we want to see flourish—in times of growth and in moments of recession and loss. Many of us would like to work with others to extend learning, to explore creativity, and to follow paths that curiosity defines. It is in this spirit that we have undertaken the establishment of “The Continuing University: An Emeriti Resource Center.”

Participants in “The Continuing University” will serve as catalysts, organizing opportunistic and long-range projects that will contribute to interdisciplinary learning, experimental programming, and innovative community outreach. Our efforts will be strengthened and enriched through collaborations with active faculty colleagues who share our interests but not our leisure. Like the projects themselves, our constituencies will be multiple and heterogeneous, drawing—as appropriate—from all segments of the campus and from the larger Santa Cruz community.

As “The Continuing University” matures, and the work of Emeriti faculty becomes more visible, we hope that the idea of what a university can be will expand: that spaces left open by budgetary stringencies will be narrowed, that the university and the city will become more integrally related, and that the line dividing formal from informal learning and teaching will soften.

*Provisional, working title

Examples of Projects proposed by Emeriti Faculty: others are and will continue to be invited.

Lectures and Exhibitions

University Relations will be asked to publish and distribute a list of Emeriti faculty who are available to present lectures to or to lead workshops with community groups, high school classes etc..

On-going discussion groups on International Relations, national politics etc.

“In Your Own Voice”-communal reading of substantial texts of general interest.“

Lectures in California prisons.

Emeriti exhibitions and presentations in public downtown spaces.

Field Trips:

One day activities led by one or more members of the Emeriti faculty. Some field trips may grow into larger, more extended projects depending upon the interests of the participants.

For example:

A tour with a campus architect and faculty member to consider the architectural history of the campus. The tour could be linked to a photography workshop. Participants might want to consider the relation of the campus’s architectural development to the development and modification of its educational plan.

Field trip on industrial agriculture or the political economy of California wine.

Using Emeriti status of the group to arrange gallery talks or private viewings of installations.

Group visits to museums, opera, theater, Academy of Sciences etc. These might be linked to pre-event discussions by participants.

Reading Groups

Emeriti faculty will organize and facilitate groups of faculty and graduate students to read and discuss new and classic texts together. If there is adequate interest, “viewing” groups will also be formed to consider films, experimental videos, television series etc.

Workshops

Emeriti workshops with teens—perhaps at the Teen Center -- to discuss cultural phenomena as represented in film, fiction, television, drama etc.

Practical workshops available in writing, photography and digital film-making. Some of these will be inter-generational.

Writing workshop for veterans, on and off campus.

Outreach

“The Continuing University” Website.

Working groups of “The Continuing University” will consider how to make their projects available to the public through informal publications, lectures, discussions etc.