COMMITTEE ON EMERITI RELATIONS
Annual Report 2011-12

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on Emeriti Relations (CER) met once each quarter during an academic year that was uneventful for the campus emeriti faculty. Because the Academic Senate Office did not assign an analyst to CER in spring quarter, the committee’s activities were truncated and a meeting that committee members planned to have with Emeriti in May was not held.

Following up on a survey of Emeriti that had been conducted by CER in Spring 2011, CER looked into the adequacy of disabled parking at McHenry Library. The committee found that, although parking spaces are adequate, the signage directing people to those spaces by way of a service road is confusing. The committee has communicated its concerns to TAPS through the Committee on Faculty Welfare faculty representation to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC).

In spring quarter, CER co-sponsored (with the Office of Academic Personnel) a Pre-Retirement Planning Workshop to which all members of the faculty who were considering retirement were invited. A representative from the Office of Academic Personnel and three retired faculty members gave presentations and an active discussion period followed.

This year, CER raised with members of the administration, the possibility of developing a project similar to one conducted by Emeriti at UC San Diego. These Emeriti are serving as mentors for low-income undergraduate students who are the first in their families to attend university. Because the UCSC administration never responded to CER’s offers to establish such a program, planning for it could not proceed. Members of CER, and a number of emeriti faculty, remain convinced that such a project would be valuable to this group of students and to the institution in general.

In Fall, 2011, members of CER asked Michael Cowan and Don Rothman to join them in considering the feasibility of establishing an Emeriti Resource Center: an initiative that had been discussed at two meetings sponsored by members of CER with Emeriti in 2010-11. Three continuously functioning projects had already emerged from those meetings: one concerned with the development of UCSC architecture, another with the recording of oral histories, and the third titled “Santa Cruz Commons: Activist Research and the Public Humanities,” which attempts to facilitate university-community collaborations. The co-directors of Santa Cruz Commons (Nancy Chen and Helene Moglen) are also members of CER. They received a grant for their project from the UC Humanities Research Institute in Winter 2012. Because a number of retired and active faculty who were interested in the Resource Center are now participating in Santa Cruz Commons, members of the augmented CER agreed that there was currently no need to establish the Emeriti Resource Center. Santa Cruz Commons, which is associated with the Center for Collaborative Research in California (CCREC) will seek external funding for its university-community projects.
Respectfully submitted,
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