Chancellor George Blumenthal

June 22, 2015

Re: UCSC Retirees Association Annual Report 2014-15

Dear Chancellor Blumenthal;

The UCSC Retirees Association is pleased to present the Association’s 2014-15 Annual Report. Here are some highlights of what we regard as an especially successful year:

Bruce Lane/Retiree Association Scholarship Endowment
The fund raising efforts of our Board and the contributions of the Bruce and Maxine Lane family continue to bear rich rewards. The Scholarship Endowment now exceeds $65,000. For the first time we were able to use interest earned from the endowment along with current year contributions to provide scholarships to deserving veteran students. At our annual scholarship luncheon in March we awarded 12 scholarships. Three scholarships were provided in memory of Chaplain Ben F. Janes, Lt. Col. Raymond Pascal and former UCSC staff member Harry Zenner and his wife Jane. Retiree Association family members from the Janes, Pascal and Zenner families made brief presentations about the named scholarships. Pictures are included in the most recent Silver Slug newsletter at http://retirees.ucsc.edu/pdfs/newsletters/2015april.pdf.

In preparing for future scholarships the Board agreed to raise the individual scholarship amount from $500 to $1000 for 2016. We were pleased to receive a letter of appreciation from an alumnus who had received a veteran scholarship. Included was a check for $350 and the commitment from his employer of a matching contribution to the scholarship fund.

New Scholarships
After some consideration we have decided to develop another scholarship fund to provide financial support to UCSC staff and non-Academic Senate faculty and their dependents. We will begin a campaign this fall to raise funds for a new Silver Slug Staff Scholarship Endowment and to continue to provide financial support for our Bruce Lane/Retiree Association veteran recipients.

We are most grateful to Sarah Schuster, Virginia Rivera and Bonnie McLeskey of University Relations for their invaluable assistance in our scholarship fund-raising endeavors.

Retiree/Emeriti Center at Kresge College
We continue to be grateful to you and EVC Galloway for agreeing to fund the Center. In our report last year we expressed our expectation that our Center Coordinator vacancy would soon be filled and the Center up and running by fall quarter 2014. Unfortunately complications in the hiring process and a death in the family of the person selected by our interview committee delayed and ultimately resulted in the cancellation of the hiring process in November 2014. Soon thereafter we received an expression of interest from the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) executive officers about collaborating on hiring a half time staff person to support both of our organizations in the office we share. We spent some time preparing a proposal for the OLLI Board only to be turned down when the full Board rejected collaboration.
The renewal of our search was thus delayed. We reposted the vacancy in late February and are pleased that an experienced and well-qualified candidate, Rebecca Skinner, accepted our offer and began her quarter time service on May 30. Becky has already been helpful in assisting Emeriti in completing their annual membership renewal mailing and she provided critical assistance in preparing for and hosting our Welcome to Retirement event.

With the full operation of the Retiree Emeriti Center, which will serve all retirees and emeriti, whether they are members of their respective associations or not, we expect a greater effectiveness in the sponsorship of programs, events, service to the University and response to individual retiree and emeriti concerns.

Retiree Recognition Event
We had a rewarding celebration of the second annual Welcome to Retirement event at Cowell College on June 18. We are pleased that EVC Galloway was able to congratulate retirees and emeriti and that your office provided certificates of appreciation. The 97 attendees, including 29 retirees and emeriti who participated, have expressed their enthusiasm for this recognition of their valuable service. This level of participation is a significant increase over last year and demonstrates that this new tradition is now perceived as an important step in the transition of retirees and emeriti to contributing members of the UCSC community. We are grateful for Cowell Provost Faye Crosby’s hospitality and the participation of Michael Nauenberg of the Emeriti Association and Michael Luttrell of the Staff Advisory Board.

Membership
The Association’s membership and participation in programs and events continues to grow. In fact this year produced the greatest growth in membership in many years, a 29% increase over 2013-14. As of June 1, 2015 we have 291 members including 58 new members. Our new online method for renewing membership seems to be working well.

Programs
We hosted four social events this year: the fall picnic at Harvey West Park; the December holiday event where we enjoyed a musical presentation by Fiat Musica and were pleased to hear your remarks about the progress of the University; the March Scholarship Luncheon mentioned above; and our May luncheon where we were delighted to share with Professor John Dizikes some recollections of the founding of UCSC.

In addition this year we sponsored several well-attended new events which we believe contributed to the increase in membership; an October whale watching cruise which attracted 29 retirees and guests; a trip to Ano Nuevo to view the elephant seals and their progeny, which had a capacity group of 21 retirees and emeriti; and an April Filoli Gardens tour led by retiree Kathleen Hughes in which 30 retirees and guests participated.

Collaboration
One of the additional benefits of working with the emeriti to develop the proposal and to hire the staff person for the Retiree/Emeriti Center has been an increased interest in joint events. The additional events mentioned above are one example of this collaboration. The Welcome to Retirement program and the Open Enrollment workshops, mentioned below, are two others. With increased awareness of our individual associations and the greater influence we can have by working together, and with staff support, we anticipate that our service to the campus, to current faculty, staff and students can be significantly increased.
UCSC 50th Anniversary
Two of our Board members who were part of the original staff, Jerry Walters and Nancy Pascal, have consulted with University Relations Staff and the 50th Anniversary Committee in planning a special event to recognize founding staff members. This special recognition event is currently scheduled for September 26-27.

Service to the University
In the coming fall quarter we intend to have members participate in the Ears in Action program which Provost Faye Crosby has developed at Cowell College. This program, implemented by the Center, will involve working with new students in the Cowell Core Course who could profit from having someone listen to them read their Core essays. In another program we also plan to seek members who might serve as mentors to new staff who would appreciate some support.

Workshops
We sponsored two Health Information workshops for emeriti and retirees during the Open Enrollment period with the assistance of Frank Trueba, the Health Care Facilitator, and the Benefits staff. Many attendees expressed their profound appreciation for the help in clarifying confusing information about changes in health care insurance. In the spring, with the assistance of the Benefits staff, we presented a pre-retirement workshop that was well attended. The participant evaluations circulated at the end of the workshop indicated that potential retirees were most grateful for the specific and personal information and responses to questions from the retiree panel.

Communication
We continue to publish the Silver Slug newsletter four times each year, delivered both electronically and by mail. Our continually updated website (http://retirees.ucsc.edu) provides helpful information, thanks to Board members Jan Tepper and Lynne Wolcott. It contains information about upcoming events and links to photos of recent programs. A Members Corner feature allows individual members to post items of interest to the membership. The newsletter link provides access to the electronic edition of the Silver Slug. We continue to post an In Memoriam link which allows us to remember those emeriti and retirees who have recently passed away.

CUCRA Participation
The Association continues its active participation in both system-wide and national organizations. Lee Duffus, our former president, is currently Chair of CUCRA (the Council of University of California Retiree Associations.) We hope that our new Retiree/Emeriti Center Coordinator can attend the CUCRA meetings to meet the staff of the Retiree Centers at other UC Campuses and can develop a closer connection with staff in the Office of the President to provide assistance to retiring faculty and staff.

Thanks again for your invaluable support. I believe the success of the Association this year demonstrates that your support has indeed produced fine results.

In appreciation with warmest regards,

Dave Dodson
Retiree Association President

c.c. Associate Chancellor Ashish Sahni
Executive Vice Chancellor Alison Galloway
Emeriti Association President Michael Nauenberg