Joint Benefits Committee (JBC) – The JBC, comprised of representatives from both CUCEA and CUCRA, continues to be invaluable in terms of watching out for our benefits. They reported that COLAs for those who took the PERS/VERIP were approved by the Regents at their December 2010 meeting and are now being implemented. This was a recommendation from JBC to the Post-Employment Benefits Task Force.

Most of the items on their current report asked for more information from the Office of the President. They did note the lack of clear information about the cost of health care plans at Open Enrollment. The spreadsheet that details the costs of each plan, which we have had in the past, was not included this year. They recommend that the Office of the President include this in the written materials sent out during Open Enrollment as they have in the past.

JBC was established in 1994, shortly after CUCRA was established as a way to connect the two associations to UCOP. The role of the JBC was, and is, to improve and enhance benefits for the constituents of both organizations. However, the relationship of JBC to CUCEA and CUCRA has not been defined in the by-laws of either organization. An ad hoc committee of CUCRA and CUCEA representatives, co-chaired by Dick Jensen and Doug Morgan, is reviewing the structure and operations of JBC, and will draw up statements of its mission, membership and practices for the next meeting at Davis.

Good News from Office of the President – Gary Schlimgen reported that UC is one of the employers that applied for and received funds from the Affordable Care Act to support claims that are not covered by Medicare. He also said that UCRP reported a 20% increase in its investments this year. This combined with the infusions of cash from the UC budget leave the plan in much better shape than predicted. This does not mean that UCRP is fully funded. It won’t be for years, but it is going in the right direction.

Paper Statements for Direct Deposit of Retirees Checks – Michael Waldman from UCOP Customer Service reported that paper statements for direct deposits of retirees’ checks will not be available after July 1, unless you go on line and specifically request them. Your statement will be available on line through At Your Service. This change will be announced on your next two statements as well as in the current issue of New Dimensions (see page 5). It would save the University $300,000 and be a step in the direction of assisting UC achieve its sustainability goals.

If you want a paper statement you will have to opt in. You can do this through the At Your Service website at: HYPERLINK http://atyourservice.ucop.edu/retirees/index.html If you opt in before July 15, you will have no breaks in your paper statements. For those who do not have Internet access, you can call the UC Customer Service Center at 1-800-888-8267.

**WE NEED TO SEND OUT AN EBLAST ABOUT THIS.

Possible Changes to Health Care Administration -- Joe Lewis from UC Customer Service Center explained that his office is under pressure to find ways to save money on administration of health care, specifically for those on Medicare. His office is looking at Insurance Exchanges/Administrators as a way to do this. He asked ExtendHealth, a private Medicare exchange company, to give us a presentation. Getting our insurance through them could possibly save money and they offer over 150 options for supplemental insurance, but neither CUCEA nor CUCRA was convinced that the service would be as good as what we currently have. The discussion that

** Action/information item specific to UCSCRA  
Copies of report sent to Maxine and Hilde
followed provided anecdotal information, direct experience with this company, and general concern about a private corporation handling our health care needs and ended up with a decided preference for UC to continue to manage our health care. It is clear that there will be pressure for Joe’s office to look at options like this. Both CUCRA and the members of the JBC who were present at our meeting will pay particular attention to this issue.

** I have a copy of the Power Point presentation if anyone would like to read it.

** CUCRA Travel Group – Rosemarie Norling from UC San Diego reported on the new opportunities available through this group associated with Colette Travel. Emeriti or retired staff who have expertise on the area to which a group is traveling may volunteer to give lectures as part of the tour and receive a reduced price for their own travel. All CUCRA tours arranged through Collette Travel are now open to those not associated with UC. If you have friends who wish to travel with you, there will be a promotion code that they can use. Also, if a group of 10 or more people from any one campus are interested in a specific trip, Colette travel will come and give a presentation.

For every tour booked through Colette travel, CUCRA is given a small commission. This is what makes it possible for CUCRA to function in the black financially. Currently our association expenses are greater than our membership dues, but the reimbursements from the travel group more than cover our expenses.

** I came back with quite a bit of information on these travel opportunities. I will take one set to our May 3 meeting and give the other set to David for the newsletter. If any of our members take advantage of these tours, it would be great to have a report.

** Official Recognition of Retirement and Emeriti Associations by the University – UCLA has just spent most of this year trying to gain official recognition from the University and called this issue to our attention. Although UCSC has resolved this issue on our campus, most of the Associations, as well as CUCEA and CUCRA have not. Both groups voted to forward a proposed policy to the Regents, which would formally recognize our Emeriti and Retiree Associations as well as CUCRA and CUCEA as official units of the University and would allow us to use the UC name as well as to get insurance. This proposed policy is similar to the policy on Support Groups and Alumni Associations, which we used to get recognition on our campus.

** Again, this is not an issue for Santa Cruz as we have already resolved this with our Chancellor. I have a copy of the proposal if anyone is interested.

** CUCRA Website – Lee Duffus let everyone know that the CUCRA website is up and running (http://cucra.ucsd.edu). All of the documents relevant to the meetings will soon be on the website. Thank you, Lee. Great job.

** Membership Survey – UCLA has just completed an extensive survey of its members to document the service of retirees to the university and community. They did this through a direct mailing and got a 26% return. Davis did a similar survey using on line Survey Monkey. Others have done surveys, but on a much smaller scale. UCLA presented their findings to their Chancellor, who was pleased to have actual data.

** I have a copy of the survey and the results from UCLA if we ever want to consider something like this at UCSC.

More complete information is available on each of these topics and a copy of the minutes of this meeting will be available within the month.

** Next Meeting – UC Davis, October 26, 27, 2011. Please forward any concerns or questions to me.
** Action/information item specific to UCSCRA

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