At the April 2012 UC Irvine meeting of UC system wide representatives from both retired staff and emeriti faculty there were a number of critical matters discussed. Among the most important were these issues:

**Health Care**
The Joint Benefits Committee (JBC), which includes representatives from both retired staff and emeriti reported its concerns about some steps recently taken by UCOP to decrease the rate of increase of health insurance costs for both retirees and current employees. One idea which JBC has criticized is the outsourcing of UC health benefits inquiries to a private agency: Extend Health. Representatives from UCOP indicated that the concerns of JBC had been received and no immediate action has been taken to pursue an outsourcing contract with Extend Health.

Another concern was voiced about the plan to centralize all UC HR and Payroll functions on the UC Riverside campus. Some have been concerned that this might result in the elimination of the local campus Health Care Facilitator positions. UCOP representatives indicated that this position is not currently being considered for elimination. More information on this change will be provided at the Fall CUCRA /CUCEA meeting.

The status of the recent Family Member Eligibility Verification project was discussed. UCOP representatives reported that 850 dependents were voluntarily dropped from coverage by employees or retirees and that as of April 2012 some 30% of the 22,000 employees and retirees surveyed had returned the requested information about their dependents. UCOP staff planned to continue soliciting this information from those who had yet to respond.

**UC Budget Crisis**
Deborah Obley, Associate Vice President for Budget and Capital Resources, reported to the meeting via long distance phone link from the Office of the President. She described the serious budget crisis currently facing UC. During that past 12 years there have only been 2 years with normal budgets. If the Governor’s November ballot initiative should fail, drastic measures will be required. Among the several measures under consideration to cut costs and increase revenue are increasing philanthropy, raising tuition and fees and recruiting more out of state students. Without increased funding from the state, it may be necessary, said VP Obley, to limit enrollment. In response to questions about how the budgetary crisis might effect health care costs for current employees and retirees, Ms. Obley reported that the UC Health Care Task Force was considering the possibility of self-insurance and utilizing the various UC Medical Centers to deliver health care to employees and retirees. No decision has been reached about that issue however.
• UCOP Recognition
Lee Duffus reviewed a letter from President Yudof acknowledging the service of retirees and emeriti and reporting that as of March 2012 both CUCRA and CUCEA would be considered “Affiliated Organizations” which will enable local chapters to receive liability insurance coverage and more direct handling of financial accounts.

Space does not permit reporting on all of the important issues which were discussed at the meeting. However two developments will provide Silver Slugs access to the important information from UC system wide deliberations. First, our own Lee Duffus will become Chair of CUCRA in the coming year and secondly, UCSC will host the joint meeting of CUCRA and CUCEA on Oct. 31 and Nov 1. If you would like to volunteer to help in the hosting of the delegates from other UC campuses please speak to Silver Slug president Nancy Pascal.