

UCSB Emeriti Association Emeriti Welfare Committee Report

September 20, 2026

The membership of the Committee on Emeriti Welfare (EWC) is as follows:

Denise Bielby
Cynthia Brown, ex officio
John Gilbert, Chair
Barbara Harthorn
Fyl Pincus
Cynthia Stohl
Muriel Zimmerman, ex officio

The Committee's charge is as follows:

The Committee on Emeriti Welfare shall work in concert with the Committee on Emeriti/ae and Retirement of the Santa Barbara division of the Academic Senate to study and make recommendations on any matter of emeriti welfare, including the welfare of surviving spouses or domestic partners of deceased emeriti. The Committee shall also monitor and advocate for the welfare of retired Continuing Lecturers, Librarians, and Researchers. The UCSB Campus Representative to the Council of University of California Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) shall serve as a member of the committee.

The Emeriti Welfare Committee is delighted to welcome new member Barbara Harthorn, whose experience and insight will be highly valuable to the UCSB emeriti. We are deeply thankful to departing member Bill Ashby, the founding Chair of EWC, for his vision and his years of leadership in supporting emeriti and emeriti concerns.

EWC met on Friday, September 18 to discuss issues and plans for the 2026-27 academic year. Here is a brief outline of current issues.

Retirement Process Survey. Each fall, EWC surveys newly retired senate faculty, librarians, professional researchers, and continuing lecturers (all of whom automatically become EA members) on their experience with the retirement process. Our goal is to gather data to support advocacy for improvements in the process for the benefit of both current and future emeriti, and to monitor the effectiveness of the retirement process over time. This year's survey will be led by EWC members Cynthia Stohl, Barbara Harthorn, and John Gilbert, and will run from early October through mid-November.

Academic Senate Relations. EA currently has a good informal relationship with the Senate Council on Faculty Welfare (CFW) because first Denise Bielby and then Fyl Pincus have served

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simultaneously on CFW and on the EA Board. We have wanted to formalize this relationship for some time. In spring 2026, CFW voted to amend its bylaws to add a (nonvoting) member to be designated by EA; that proposal is now wending its way through the UCSB Senate.

On-Campus Retirement Advising. Beginning in fall 2025, UCSB established (for a two-year term) a 43%-time recall position of Retirement Counselor in Human Resources. EWC is cooperating with the Retirement Counselor, Lisa Romero, and is advocating to make this a permanent full-time position. EWC is also talking with the UCSB administration about the possibility of a “Pathways to Retirement” program for UCSB faculty, similar to those at several other UC campuses.

Information on the Retirement Process. A few years ago, EWC designed a [page on the EA web site](#) with advice for faculty on the retirement process. Some of that information has become outdated. We are working with Ellen Pasternack and Lisa Romero to have the EA site link to HR-maintained materials for details of processes and procedures, rather than trying to keep them up to date separately; EA will maintain its philosophical advice from the faculty point of view.

Email, Computer, and IT Support. EWC is interested in several IT issues where the emeriti may have unique situations or needs. These include: email access for survivors of deceased emeriti; cybersecurity; and IT support generally. Some of these issues are also being considered by the systemwide Council of UC Emeriti Associations (CUCEA) and the CUCEA/CUCRA Joint Benefits Committee.

In Memoriam Notices. The current UCSB administration has reportedly devolved preparation, distribution, and archiving of faculty in memoriam notices entirely to the departments. This seems unsatisfactory in a number of ways.

Academic Records of Emeriti. There is apparently no process for archiving (or updating) academic records of emeriti, which would be useful both for reference purposes and for emeriti who remain professionally active. Especially with the introduction of all-online biobibs, it seems that this should be possible, at least going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

- John Gilbert, EWC Chair