

Annual Report of the Emeritus College at Arizona State University
FY 2004 – 2005

Submitted by Professor Emeritus Richard J. Jacob, Dean

1. **Introduction**

The ‘Proposal for an Emeritus College at Arizona State University’ was submitted by the Emeritus College Steering Committee to Milton D. Glick, Executive Vice President and Provost of the University on Tuesday, July 6, 2004. The proposal was accepted by the University Administration and Richard J. Jacob, Professor Emeritus of Physics, was appointed Dean of the Emeritus College on November 2, 2004. On that date, the members of the Steering Committee were appointed as members of the Emeritus College (EC) Council.

All associated with the Emeritus College join in thanking the Administration, and especially Provost Glick and Assistant Provost Loui Olivas, for their foresight and unwavering assistance and support in this venture.

2. **Organization**

At the initial EC Council meeting, a Bylaws Committee was appointed. The Committee’s final report was adopted at the EC Council meeting of April 26 and the Bylaws were accepted pending ratification at the first EC membership meeting to be scheduled during FY 2005 – 2006. According to the newly adopted Bylaws, EC Council members are to serve for staggered three-year terms. A random process was used to assign the initial terms as follows:

Terms to end June 30, 2006:

Ronald H. Alvarado, Professor Emeritus of Zoology
Winifred Doane, Professor Emerita of Zoology
Leonard Gordon, Professor Emeritus of Sociology

Terms to end June 30, 2007

Takayori Atsumi, Professor Emeritus of Music
Charles Merbs, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology
Howard G. Voss, Professor Emeritus of Physics

Terms to end June 30, 2008

John E. Bell, Professor Emeritus of Secondary Education
Charles S. Elliott, Professor Emeritus of Industrial Engineering
Fred S. Fehr, Professor Emeritus of Psychology

Professor Merbs was not a member of the original Steering Committee. Serving *ex officio* on the EC Council are:

Beatrice Gordon, Professor Emerita of English, Director of the EC
Center for Writing

William W. Phillips, Professor Emeritus of History, Director of the
EC Center for ASU History and Tradition

As described in the EC proposal, Centers were established with Directors as follows:

- The Center for Issues in K-12 Education – John Bell
- The Center for Innovations in Instruction – Fred Fehr
- The Emeritus Center for Writing – Beatrice Gordon
- The Center for ASU History and Tradition – William Phillips

In addition, a steering committee, chaired by Richard Loveless, has been appointed to make recommendations for the organization of a Center for the Arts. Preliminary consideration has been given to a Center for Public Numeracy and Scientific Literacy. The proposed Center for Mentoring awaits adequate physical facilities for its establishment.

Charles Merbs was appointed EC Newsletter Editor.

The Standing Committee on University Emeritus Policy was appointed under the chairmanship of Leonard Gordon.

The EC is a member of the Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE). Fred Fehr represents the EC by serving on the AROHE board of directors. The EC was also represented by Fehr and Charles Elliott at the AROHE Annual Meeting, held in Nashville, October 2004. Both Fehr and Elliott presented papers at this meeting, their topics concerning aspects of the foundation of the Emeritus College.

3. **Physical Facilities and Logistics**

An Administrative Assistant, half-time, was approved January, 2005. After a search within the University, Ms. Maureen Graff, late of CAPC Research, was hired. Ms. Graff's status was promoted to full time effective July 1. Her service has been exemplary.

Temporary office space for the EC was found first in Administration B Wing and then in Social Science 107. The College awaits assignment of permanent facilities in Wilson Hall. (Architectural work is underway.) Current space in the Social science Building includes offices for the Dean and Administrative Assistant, an office for Center Directors and other Council members, a library/hospitality/small conference room, a large conference room, work space and two studies and one carrel for members' use. This space has served our purposes very well at this stage of our development. Offices, studies and carrel are all furnished with computers and web access.

With the generous and cooperative assistance of members of the Provost's IT staff and artists from Public Relations, EC logos were developed and incorporated into the College web site, stationery and other brand carrying devices. In addition to the web site, an "Emeritus College E-Card" was designed for purposes of communicating items of interest (meetings, opportunities, etc.) to the membership.

4. **Membership**

a. **Membership pool.** The original working list of emeriti and emeritae was provided by the Provost's office. For various valid reasons, it was found to be incomplete and considerable effort has gone into generating a complete data file on retired ASU faculty with emeritus status.

An interest survey form was sent to the 781 emeriti/ae on the original list. Unlike the survey taken the previous year by the Steering Committee, this was not anonymous. Respondents were asked to indicate their interest in joining the EC and in the various center focus areas. Of the 247 respondents, 216 indicated a desire to join the EC as Founding Members and 37 more asked to be kept informed of the EC's development. The remainder are classified with the body of nonrespondents as *no interest expressed*.

b. **Membership drive.** Throughout the Spring 2005 Semester, all respondents to the survey save those who indicated no interest were considered to be the unofficial EC membership and were treated in communications as members. In mid-May, the official membership drive commenced with applications sent to all emeriti and emeritae in our records, including new retirees. (As of this writing, applications are still being sent to newly discovered emeriti and emeritae.) To date, applications and contribution checks have been received from 161 Founding Members. Of these, 23 were originally classified as nonrespondents. Founding Members represent all colleges and virtually all departments in the University. Total contributions to the EC Endowment Fund and Gifts and Grants Fund stand at \$6055.

As of July 1, 2005, most communications and benefits were directed only to Founding Members of record. An EC Inaugural Convocation was held on Friday, July 8.

A second phase of the membership drive involving personal contact of those who had initially expressed a desire to join the EC will open in September, 2005. Our goal is a Founding Membership of 200 or more.

5. **Outreach**

Immediately upon taking office, the Dean undertook an outreach campaign to inform and elicit support from the university community. Aided at times by a PowerPoint presentation, he has appeared before the University Dean's Council and the CLAS and Fulton School of Engineering Administrative Councils. He has also visited with the dean of every college except one (a meeting with Dean Debra Freedman is scheduled for the Fall) and numerous administrators in both the University and the ASU Foundation. In addition to deans, individuals met with at least once include:

Jewell Parker Rhodes, Director, Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing
Virgil Renzulli, Vice President for Public Affairs
Terri Shafer, Director of Marketing
Ira Jackson, President, ASU Foundation

Diane McCarthy, President, ASU Alumni Association
Sherrie Schmidt, Dean, University Libraries
Wilma K. Mathews, Director of Constituent relations
Nancy Gutierrez, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Patricia Arredondo, Senior Advisor for Academic Initiatives
Christine Wilkinson, Acting President, ASU Alumni Association
Diane McCarthy, Vice President, ASU Foundation
Patricia Scalzi, Vice President, ASU Foundation

Meetings will also be scheduled with the administrative councils of all the other major colleges. The reception to the EC has been everywhere positive. Every meeting has resulted in additional ideas for opportunities to offer the members of the EC, mostly in terms of possible service to the University.

6. Activities

In the short time since its inception, the EC has taken on several initiatives and activities. Some of these are under the auspices of EC centers and others are directed through the Dean's office. It should be noted that all of these activities are in their embryonic state.

a. **Center for Issues in K-12 Education**

- i. *Pappas Schools initiative.* The EC is anticipating an invitation to participate with College of Education students in programs delivered to the Pappas Schools for homeless children.
- ii. *College of Law "Junior Law" program.* The College of Law sponsors a program wherein law students teach, as a pro bono activity, high school classes in aspects of the law relevant to teenagers. The EC has been asked to provide instruction and mentoring in teaching in the secondary *schools*.
- iii. *Rodel Community Scholars.* The W. P. Carey School of Business conducts a program in which business students fulfill internship assignments in high schools that have "high risk" students. They will also be asked to develop "community action" plans related to these assignments. They are seeking guidance regarding their interactions with high school students and possible mentoring in the development of action plans.

b. **Center for Innovation in Instruction**

The Center functions currently as a study group that meets periodically under the leadership of Director Fred Fehr. It is expected that initiatives will develop from these meetings and the identification of mutual areas of interest among the participants. One such initiative is already under way. Professor Emeritus Murray Sirkis (Electrical Engineering) has proposed a program to bring college level instruction, leading to degree

credits, to incarcerated felons in Arizona prisons. Organizational meetings for this proposal are scheduled.

c. Emeritus Center for Writing

Although the Emeritus Center for Writing has the potential of offering service to the University, primarily the Piper Center, its activities so far have been for the direct benefit of EC members.

- iv. *EC Readings.* The Center has sponsored to date two readings at which EC members have had the opportunity of reading their own poetry and prose. Participation was good and representative of the whole spectrum of disciplines. These readings will continue as a regular part of the Center's activities.
- v. *Creative Writing Workshops.* The Piper Center has organized creative writing workshops in both prose and poetry exclusively for members of the College and their spouses or domestic partners. These workshops will take place over a ten week period during the Fall 2005 Semester. Registration figures so far indicate good participation in the prose workshops but are lagging for the poetry workshops.

d. Center for ASU History and Tradition

A proposal has been submitted to the Arizona Historical Foundation to support the writing of department and college histories. Cooperation in this endeavor has been obtained from the University Library (Robert P. Spindler) and the ASU Retirees Association, which has a similar program.

e. Office of the Dean

The office of the Dean is pursuing several initiatives, both on and off campus. They are, at this writing, in various stages of development.

- i. *Tempe Enclave of the Osher Lifelong Learning Foundation.* ASU has a \$100K grant renewal from the Osher Foundation. A portion of this is administered by Prof. Morris Okun (Psychology) for the "Tempe Enclave." In this program, senior citizens from the Tempe area may, through membership, take courses on substantive subjects as offered by qualified instructors. The EC conducted an interest survey for the Tempe Enclave and received a large number of responses from both prospective enrollees and potential instructors. It seems certain that the Tempe Enclave will field an initial slate of courses in the Spring, 2006 Semester taught largely by members of the EC. Instructors will be compensated and EC members will be offered discount memberships in the program.

(The EC Program Director for the Tempe Enclave is Charles Elliott.)

- ii. *Arizona Arts, Sciences and Technology Academy (AASTA)*. The EC was approached by the leadership (Patrick Burkhart and Gary Krahenbuhl) of the newly formed AASTA in order to develop programs and proposals of mutual interest on issues of importance to the State of Arizona. Discussions are ongoing and indicate a productive relationship between the two organizations. For example, Dr. Burkhart was the keynote speaker at the EC's inaugural Convocation on July 8. Among Founding Fellows of the AASTA are EC members Winifred Doane, Leonard Gordon and Richard Jacob.
- iii. *New Frontiers Learning in Retirement*. This East Valley organization sought lecturers for its programs. Several EC members responded to this request.
- iv. *University Undergraduate Initiatives*. The EC is cooperating with this office (Patricia Arredondo, Tiffany Rice) to survey its membership regarding issues in undergraduate retention. This will be followed up with focus groups and, eventually, mentoring opportunities.
- v. *Faculty Development Program*. The opportunity for EC members to work with tenure track faculty in a mentoring relationship has been part of the initial EC vision. EC members have been solicited to participate in this program.

7. **Budget**

The Emeritus College was provided an operations budget through the Provost Office which, with initial and subsequent infusion, approximated that requested in the proposal. The College successfully managed its programs and activities within this budget. Details are available in the Provost's Office.

8. **Goals**

The principal goal of the EC during the next year is to establish organizational vitality and viability. The particular goals we set to this end include, but are not exhausted by, the following (in no particular priority order):

- a. To stabilize the Founding Membership at about 200 by December 31, 2005 and to continue steady growth beyond that.
- b. To establish permanent quarters with facilities approximating those described in the Proposal, including studies and carrels for members' use.
- c. To achieve full staffing as described in the Proposal (one full-time Administrative Assistant and one full-time Clerk/Receptionist).
- d. To experience healthy activity levels in all of the EC Centers and major initiatives now in their various stages of planning.

- e. To continue the EC Readings series and to initiate other similar events which will bring EC members on campus for participation.
- f. To generate additional opportunity initiatives for the EC membership, both on and off campus, and both *pro bono* and for fee.
- g. To seek external funding opportunities from both grants and gifts.
- h. To participate with AASTA and similar organizations in mutually attractive projects.
- i. To set up the Center for Mentoring with accompanying activity in mentoring studies, including funded research.
- j. To establish the Emeritus Press as described in the Proposal.
- k. To establish the Center for Public Numeracy and Scientific Literacy.
- l. To generate future leadership for the EC.
- m. To publish the EC Newsletter at least twice.
- n. To organize a successful First Annual Emeritus College Symposium during the Spring Semester, 2006.
- o. To receive the report of the Committee on University Emeritus Policy and to seek to implement their recommendations.
- p. To develop and maintain a data file of scholarly and artistic activities by EC members during the 2005-2006 year for inclusion in the next annual report.
- q. To present our accomplishments thus far to the Arizona Board of Regents and to obtain their sanction on our existence and endeavors.