

Association of Emeritus Professors

Articles of Organization

Preamble

Changes in demography and social attitudes have resulted in an increase in the number of University faculty who have retired but remain healthy, active, and eager to continue some form of professional activity. Some have chosen to engage in activities similar to those that marked their pre-retirement academic career, e.g. teaching, research, writing, administration, etc. Others, choosing to take advantage of the new freedom afforded by their retirement, have sought alternative, equally satisfying and productive activities inside and outside the University.

Clearly the Association of Emeritus Professors provide a vast pool of knowledge, talent, and energy combined with long experience in academia that should not be overlooked but that rather should be encouraged by the University. This is a vast source for the University to draw upon in interesting ways to its own benefit and to the benefit of the emeritus professors as well.

Therefore it is proposed to create an Association of Emeritus Professors with the broad goal of facilitating these continuing activities through identification of present and potential activities of emeritus faculty, and by enhancing communication among emeritus faculty and with the rest of the University and its broader community, in such a way as to maximize the benefits to all involved.

Purposes

1. To identify and understand the multiple ways that emeritus professors have found to contribute their time, energy, and expertise to the activities of the University and those of the community in which the University lives. To accomplish this, it first will be necessary to build an address database for contacting current emeritus faculty, and then to establish contact with those who may be interested in this organization.
2. To analyze the benefits of current activities of emeritus professors to the University, to the community, and to the emeritus professors themselves, and to consider ways in which this list of activities and associated benefits might be expanded and communicated to other emeritus professors for their consideration.
3. To facilitate and promote such activities on a continuing basis, through a central office, publications, a web site, or other suitable means.
4. To maintain contact among emeritus professors in order to share ideas, foster cooperative activities, and provide a forum for concerns specific to their emeritus status.

Organization

1. All emeritus professors will automatically be members of the Association of Emeritus Professors. Although some emeritus professors may not wish to play an active role in the organization, the Association will try to keep all of them aware of its activities through not-very-frequent mailings. There could be an outreach activity to “senior” faculty prior to their retirement to insure that they are aware of the Association and its activities when they do retire.
2. Recognizing the diversity of the emeritus faculty, many of whom may not be on campus frequently or may no longer live as close to the University as before, there should be a small (possibly 3–5) group of persons who are given the responsibility for the operation of the Association for a stated period of time (possibly 2–4 years). This group should be selected by and from the larger group of emeritus professors who are members of the Association, and they should have a specified term. One person could be selected from this group (a chair, director, etc.) to be responsible for actively monitoring and facilitating the on-going activities of the Association, as specified below. This group will need some budgetary support from the University, but should remain as independent as possible. The Association should have a formal link to the University administration, probably through the Associate Provost’s office.
3. There could be standing committees and *ad hoc* committees appointed for specific purposes from time to time. One standing committee should be a Nominating Committee, and this committee should have membership including both previous members of the administrative committee, who will bring experience in running the Association, and members at large without such previous experience.

Activities

1. Organize the emeritus professors for purposes of coordinating, facilitating, and encouraging participation of retired faculty members in activities of the University in the broadest sense.
2. Publicize the existence of the Association and its activities as well as those of the members.
3. Maintain a database of the membership, their areas of expertise and interest, and their current activities relevant to the Association, and make these data available (selectively) both within and outside the University (see next item, #4 below). Evolve an expanding list of useful activities that emeritus professors could participate in.
4. Provide a central location where members can find out about opportunities for participation in University programs and can seek help with planned and ongoing activities.

5. Facilitate interaction with and assistance from University administrators in relation to availability of needed resources and funds for activities, and provide information to the University and the Association's activities.
6. Periodically analyze and report on the status of the Association, its members, and their activities to the the membership, to the standing faculty of the University, and to the University administration.
7. Study and comment on the state of the Emeritus faculty, only when there seems to be a reason for concern, not as a regular activity.
8. Social activities, such as a dinner and an annual meeting, could be considered, but not emphasized as a major function of the Association.

Requirements

1. An office in a central location on campus, with one or two small desks, a PC with internet connection, two file cabinets, bookshelves, and a conference table for 4–8 persons.
2. A telephone, a University email address, and a web site, including assistance with its creation and maintenance.
3. The equivalent of a half time assistant, probably provided by contributions from several people with different skills. Duties would include responding to email and telephone messages and passing appropriate ones on to the Association, helping with preparation of publications and reports, maintaining the membership and address lists, setting up meetings, and generally assisting the administrative committee of the Association.

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