

## **A Proposal to Chancellor Philip DiStefano to support the creation of a Boulder Campus Retired Faculty organization: *The UCB Emeriti Association and Friends***

1. ***Rationale for a Boulder campus Emeriti Association and Friends organization:***  
Campus-based retired faculty associations exist at more than 200 U.S. colleges and universities<sup>1</sup>. Examples of public and private research universities include UC San Diego, University of Washington, Emory University, University of Cincinnati and University of Minnesota. Although they vary in mission, programs and services, they provide opportunities for retirees to (a) maintain a connection with their institution, (b) remain connected with their colleagues, (c) continue their scholarly and instructional activities to practice life-long learning and (d) provide service to their departments and colleges. Retirees possess **expertise and experience** that can provide explicit benefits to the missions of the University of Colorado Boulder. Recognition of those capabilities by Boulder campus administrators can encourage interested individuals to participate in campus life in an active way.

Both the Colorado Springs and Anschutz campuses have existing retiree organizations with recognition from their administrative leadership. This proposal is focused on developing a similar organization on the Boulder campus.

### **2. *Mission and Objectives:***

- a. Recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of retired faculty and their contributions to the Boulder campus.
- b. Identify specific opportunities that will motivate retired faculty to employ their **expertise and experience** in support of the educational, scholarly, cultural and social life of the Boulder campus.
- c. Encourage dues-paying formal membership.
- c. Encourage life-long learning by access to campus seminars, classes, performances and exhibits.
- d. Develop a portfolio of benefits that encourage and enable engagement such as improved parking arrangements, improved IT support for purchase/maintenance of hardware/software, and re-establishment of a faculty club.

### **3. *Potential Programmatic Activities***

- a. Distinguished Retiree Lecture Series presented by individuals with extensive records of contributions to their educational programs, fields of scholarship, as well as to the Boulder campus.
- b. Monthly Seminar Series by internal and external speakers.

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<sup>1</sup> Transforming Academic Retirement: The Performance and Potential of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education: Baldwin, R. G., Say, B.H. and Belin, A. A., Center for Higher and Adult Education, Michigan State University, May 2017.

- c. Mentoring (life-skills) for first-generation students.
  - d. Mentoring (academic experience) for recent faculty appointees.
  - e. Undergraduate student tutoring at the Village Center facility.
  - f. An “emeritus college”<sup>2</sup> featuring discussion groups and presentations on topics of interest, moderated by retired faculty and accessible to the entire campus academic community.
  - g. Volunteer learning programs available to local retirement communities.
  - h. Recognition of members who make substantial contributions to campus educational and scholarly programs.
  - i. Oral and written history project to generate a record of retiree contributions to the Boulder campus.
  - j. Interest groups for retirees, compatible with the breadth of educational programs at the University of Colorado plus activities that promote physical well being and healthy aging.
  - k. Biannual “business” luncheons for members and significant others to address issues of concern to the Association including elections of officers.
4. **Membership Categories:** Full Membership is available to all CU emeritus faculty paying annual dues<sup>3</sup> as well as their surviving spouses and significant others. Friends Membership is available to dues-paying emeritus faculty from any university, other classes of dues-paying faculty retirees, non-academic dues-paying UCB administrators and to dues-paying community members with an interest in engaging and interacting with programs and services at the University of Colorado Boulder with the objective of enhancing the town-gown relationship.
5. **Budget and Space:**
- a. **The CURFA budget:** The CU system retiree organization is supported currently by the President’s office with an annual contribution of \$5,000 for operational expenses and \$5,000 to support a competitive research grant program open to any CU system retiree (\$1000/person). The former is used to cover the cost of mailings, renting campus space for programmatic activities, parking support, development and printing of a biannual newsletter as well as an annual membership directory, modest payments to an administrative assistant, and support for a monthly seminar series. All CU faculty retirees are considered to be members of CURFA. Only a fraction of the 900+ retirees pay dues of \$20 per year, subsequent to the first year after retirement. Surviving spouses and member significant others pay dues of \$10 per year. Approximately 464 Boulder campus retiree names appear in the current CURFA directory, but only about 130 have paid annual dues<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Alan Franklin-Physics

<sup>3</sup> described in the by-laws

<sup>4</sup> See item #6 for membership dues information

CURFA members have also provided financial support to enhance the Carl Kisslinger endowment used to provide scholarships to graduate students on each of the CU campuses.

**b. Budget request to the Boulder campus administration:**

- \$7,000/year for operational expenses;
- \$10,000/year to support 5 research grants at \$2000/person for Emeriti Association members who are selected in a competitive program;
- Chancellor-sponsored annual retiree recognition ceremony.

c. **Space:** Emeriti Association and Friends office space to accommodate our largely volunteer administrative assistant, treasurer and local web-site manager.

6. **Governance:** The full members of the Boulder campus Emeriti Association and Friends organization will elect officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer as described in the By-Laws. The President will represent the organization's interests at the Boulder Faculty Assembly and its Executive Committee with the objective of encouraging the BFA to be aware and supportive of retired faculty interests and needs. The officers have primary responsibility for organizational governance subject to membership votes as described in the By-Laws.

The officers of the Emeriti Association and Friends organization will appoint an Advisory Committee composed of members nominated by the administration and the Boulder Faculty Association. The Advisory Committee will be responsible for providing independent perspectives that might be beneficial to the mission, services and success of the Emeriti Association and Friends organization

7. **Communication with the Membership:** The Emeriti Association and Friends organization will sponsor an actively maintained website to provide information about programs and activities for members and their guests. In addition, a newsletter will be published during each academic semester to reach retirees who are not comfortable with electronic media.