

Linking Retired Academics Across Nations and Beyond

Preserving Knowledge and Fostering Global Collaboration

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Our Discussion Today



1. A few creation stories



2. What exists today



3. Key questions, ideas, and proposals



4. Possible directions for us



5. Summary and proposed next steps



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"Retirement is not an exit, but a transformation of one's institutional knowledge into a lasting legacy for the next generation of scholars."

Global Academic Network Consensus






Section 1: The Story of Our Roots

How local associations evolved into national and international networks to
serve the interests of faculty emeriti.

University of Minnesota (UMRA)

Founding & Growth

-  Established as a local organization before national federations took shape.
-  Founding principles centered on institutional memory and retiree welfare.
-  Current Status: A vibrant community of retired faculty and staff driving local social community, service to the university and beyond, and continued learnings about our world.



AROHE: A Vision for Higher Ed



Empowering Organizations

Formed to support campus-based retirement organizations through the exchange of successful practices and research.



Transformative practices for all retirement stages.



Enhancing retiree engagement and contributions.

AROHE: The Beginnings

The Association of Retirement Organizations in Higher Education (AROHE) evolved from informal meetings that began in 1984.

- ✓ Incorporated as a nonprofit in 2002 at the University of Southern California (USC).
- ✓ The first stop for administrators and retiree organizations seeking to serve retired faculty.
- ✓ A pioneer in formalizing the "Emeriti" value proposition.



AROHE: Strategic Resources



Philanthropy

Engaging retirees in giving and donor advocacy for institutions.



Advocacy

Ensuring the voice of retired faculty is heard in higher education policy.



Connections

Providing essential links between individuals and university professions.

CURAC: The Canadian Landscape

CURAC (College and University Retiree Associations of Canada) serves as a vital non-profit federation across the nation.

- ✔ Supports and connects retiree organizations of colleges and universities throughout Canada.
- ✔ Acts as a collective voice that can influence provincial and national governments and private corporations.
- ✔ Maintains critical links with North American sister organizations.



| North American Synergy

Linked

Bilateral Partnership

Bridging Borders

CURAC and AROHE are strategically linked to each other. This cross-border collaboration allows for the sharing of research, advocacy strategies, and institutional best practices across the entire North American continent.



Section 2: What exists today

How local associations evolved into national and international networks to serve the interests of faculty emeriti.

Two Models of Engagement

Emeriti-Only

Focuses on maintaining high-level research, scholarly publication, and academic prestige. Often separate from general staff initiatives.

Strength: Knowledge preservation and professional continuity.

Faculty & Staff Inclusive

Creates a broad community of all retired university employees. Focuses on institutional loyalty and social connectivity.

Strength: Scale, inclusivity, and operational diversity.

Both models serve members through advocacy and benefit negotiation, though their "centers of gravity" differ significantly.

Dedicated Retirement Centers

Berkeley, UCLA, UBC (British Columbia)

Institutionalized centers provide physical and organizational homes for some retirees, bridging the gap between campus and the post-retirement life.



Dedicated staff to coordinate retiree resources.



Robust programming: Lectures, mentoring, and social events.



Maintaining the "University Family" connection.



Existing global networks to inform our discussions



U3A

University of the Third Age
provides lifelong learning
opportunities for all retirees.



AFU GN

Age-Friendly University Global
Network fosters inclusive
learning and action.







UNESCO

Potential for high-level global
policy integration in education
and legacy.

The Professors Emeriti Network Perspective



Professors Emeriti Network

-  Represents a potential "home" for faculty emeriti.
-  Individual-based membership model.
-  Connected to EU eRegions and Danube Region strategies.
-  Focus on active aging and intercultural dialogue.

European Association of Professors Emeriti (EAPE): European Connections

Aims to connect retired academics across Europe to foster continued scientific contribution, mentorship, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

EAPE fosters a continent-wide network that allows retired professors to maintain their scientific activity and contribute to European higher education through mentorship and policy influence.



Strategic Goals



Institutional Value

Increasing retirees' value to their colleges and universities.



Legacy Management

Preserving institutional knowledge for future faculty generations.



Global Dialogue

Fostering intercultural exchange between academic networks.

| Strategic Missions & Areas of Impact

- ✓ **Philanthropic Engagement:** Creating structured avenues for retirees to contribute to institutional development.
- ✓ **Resource Center:** Serving as the "first stop" for administrators to engage retired faculty.
- ✓ **Advocacy & Policy:** Standing on behalf of retirees in community and professional sectors.
- ✓ **Digital Networking:** Utilizing web resources such as LinkedIn and others to maintain lifelong professional connections.

The AROHE Virtual Chapter (VRC)

1,000
MEMBER GOAL FOR YEAR 1

A New Digital Home for Individuals

The VRC is designed to serve as a worldwide organization for individual retirees (faculty and staff) who lack a local campus-based association.

Key Target: Scale to 4,000 members within 5 years at an affordable \$20 USD annual fee.

<https://www.arohe.org/Virtual-Retirement-Chapter>



Section 3: Possible Directions for Us

What is the Next Step?



Build the Retired Professors Associations Network

Strengthen links between existing associations (Federation model).



Individual Home

Pivot toward individual membership models like EAPE or VRC.



Hybrid Route

Collaborate across CURAC, AROHE, and European networks.

Or

Wait for the situation to evolve

Section 4: Questions, ideas, proposals

- What do we want to accomplish with this linking of groups of retired academics across nations and beyond?
- What is the relationship among some of the key groups

Professors Emeriti Network

EAPE

AROHE

CURAC

Retired Professors Associations Network (<https://eregion.eu/retired-professors-associations-network/>)

Other organizations – UNESCO, AFU GN, University of the Third Age

Individuals (faculty and staff)

Questions (continued)

- Does this Network intend to carry out other activities in addition to sharing website links
- What are potential points of conflict
- Are all these groups trying to do the same thing with the same categories of retirees
- Do we want to be a global group
- How can we complement and support each other
- What else is important for us to understand at this point

Section 5: Summary and next steps

What do we want to accomplish together?

Proposed Next Step:

- Form a small global action group (3-5 people)
- Review today's discussion
- Formulate a path forward including purpose and organizational structure

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Discussion

Let's discuss the path forward for our retiree networks.

<https://eregion.eu/professors-emeriti-network-2025/>

www.arohe.org | www.curac.ca | www.eape.org

<https://eregion.eu/retired-professors-associations-network>

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