

# Linking Retired Academics Across Nations and Beyond

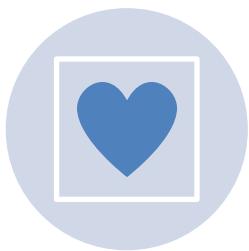
Preserving Knowledge and Fostering Global Collaboration

**Eric Hockert (Minnesota, USA) & Walter Archer (Alberta, Canada)**

President-elect AROHE | President CURAC



# 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



“

*"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://erregion.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

Walter Archer: [warcher@ualberta.ca](mailto:warcher@ualberta.ca)

Eric Hockert: [ehockert@alumni.umn.edu](mailto:ehockert@alumni.umn.edu)

# Discussion

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

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

[www.arohe.org](http://www.arohe.org) | [www.curac.ca](http://www.curac.ca) | [www.eape.org](http://www.eape.org)

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

/