

## **ERIC B. VERMILLION**

### Statement of Qualifications

#### CUCRA representative – Joint Benefits Committee

Still considering myself a relatively new retiree (2013), I only very recently collided with our retiree health care issues when UCOP tried to pull the rug out from under the annuitant health benefits we'd been promised these many years we were actively working and in 2017 tried to change an agreement that had been reached in 2010 as part of a major Post-Employment Benefits (PEB) Task Force review.

Subsequent to this what turned out to be a failed attempt, I was asked to serve on a committee to select a Medicare Advantage Plan in 2018-19, as a CUCRA representative. As part of this process, I discovered a large lack of empathy towards the retiree-patient and an even larger lack of understanding about what any Medicare eligible senior has to go through given the normal declines that accompany advancing age. This is compounded by the complexity of the health plans and the fact that any changes to their plans may mean disruption to longstanding and on-going treatments for life threatening problems that they are facing. As a consequence, we were able to help guide a decision that provided the University an opportunity to try a Medicare Advantage plan as an option and not do any harm to a current annuitant's existing Medicare access.

I spent my entire 35+ year career at UCSF at both a professional staff and management level early in my career and later as an officer of the University as the Vice Chancellor of Finance at UCSF. In those final roles I not only was responsible for the management and planning of UCSF's resources, but also was responsible for the insurance and risk management programs and portfolios and the Federal touchpoints and related negotiations at a policy level.

As a CUCRA representative to the UC Joint Benefits Committee I will not only bring this background to bear, but also the perspective of a 20-year cancer 'fighter' who has had to deal with all of the good, bad and indifferent that a patient has to deal with as they are often forced to face in their journey to stay healthy and alive. Further – I know most of the active staff and management at UCOP and can use these connections to further our objectives. In my view, the JBC can be a much louder and more effective voice for the retirees – particularly as the health care world becomes even more complex and our annuitant health care benefit becomes one of the few remaining quality benefits we can count on.