

President's and Regents' Retiree Association (PARRA) Report – Fall 2011**Communications**

Office of the President retirees automatically become members of PARRA when they retire. We have been focusing on how we can improve communications with our growing membership, now approximately 750, while keeping costs down. Like many other retiree associations, we're looking into publishing our spring and fall newsletters online, beginning with those who have registered for our listserv (members can opt to continue receiving hard copies if they desire). We are also considering a survey covering some or all of our members. Rich Sextro and Janis Dairiki have generously met with us and shared useful information about their survey of the EX-Ls.

**Luncheon speakers**

The theme for our luncheon speakers this year has been the state of California and the state of the University. Last spring, Joe Mathews and Mark Paul, authors of *California Crackup: How Reform Broke the Golden State and What We Can Do About It*, gave a thoughtful presentation on California's dysfunctional politics and outlined some solutions (a key proposal: make it possible for successful ballot initiatives, currently frozen into the State constitution, to be revised or revisited in the future if circumstances change).

The future of the University is a topic of growing interest, given the fiscal condition of the state of California. For our fall luncheon, UCLA Chancellor Emeritus Chuck Young will speak on how to reorganize and reorient the University of California to face its uncertain future. His paper on this topic is available at <http://cshe.berkeley.edu/publications/publications.php?id=378>. And on the subject of the University, twenty-two of the twenty-nine former UC chancellors met in June to discuss strategies UC might adopt to deal with the current budgetary downturn. Their thoughts, expressed in an August letter to President Yudof, are available at <http://cshe.berkeley.edu/publications/publications.php?id=390>.

**Meeting with Vice President Duckett**

The PARRA Executive Committee regularly invites Office of the President administrators to visit with us. At our meeting earlier this month, Human Resources Vice President Dwaine Duckett met with us to discuss the challenges in his area and PARRA's relationship with the Office of the President.

LaVonne Rochon, PARRA representative and Pat Pelfrey, PARRA president