

The University of Iowa  
SENIOR COLLEGE  
in Cooperation with  
Association of Emeritus Faculty and the  
The University of Iowa Retirees Association  
with Registration and Webpage Support from  
The University of Iowa Center for Advancement  
2019-2020

The Senior College was started in 2002 by Al Hood and his merry band of faculty and staff. The concept was they would begin offering 5 or 6 courses per semester, costs would be minimal, and instructors would be paid an honorarium. The committee settled on a \$30 registration fee, which is what it remains today, some 18 years later, but our offerings per semester have grown considerably, as have our enrollments.

Courses cover a wide variety of topics in the humanities, sciences, and the Arts and are taught by emeritus and current UI faculty members and others. We continue to keep two running lists: one of all courses offered, by semester and year, and a second one by instructor(s). It's a pretty impressive compendium!

In the fall semester 2019, the Senior College registered 943 people for 12 courses. In the spring semester 2020, we offered 9 courses and 725 people were registered. A new policy was passed by the Committee to limit registration to 3 courses per person in each semester to help alleviate filled courses, but when a person who had registered for 3 courses asked if he could please register for another course if it didn't fill before it began, that was a win, win. At the beginning of the spring session 2020, the Committee unanimously voted to increase our instructor honorarium to \$1000. We continue to look for ways to improve issues such as venues, parking, and closed courses.

This has been a momentous year for the Senior College. In early spring we began carefully monitoring the growing concern surrounding COVID-19. On March 10 the Committee met in person (which we haven't done since) and made the decision to cancel the rest of the spring session. We had completed just 3 courses, All impacted registrants received a full refund for their canceled courses. Because instructors for remaining courses had already devoted considerable time and energy, we elected to pay them half of the honorarium.

We immediately turned our attention to the fall 2020 semester. Would we have in-person courses or provide online instruction? Should we keep the same format? As time went by, it became increasingly obvious that if we didn't feel confident helping with courses in person, our students wouldn't want to attend, either. Work is currently ongoing to deliver some courses and to do it online.

Two members retired from the Committee at the end of spring semester, Val Lembke and Rich Wretman. Val joined the Committee in 2010 and served as our treasurer. We added two new members, Lesanne Fliehler and Tom Rocklin.

The current committee:

H. Dee Hoover, chair  
Warren Boe  
Kelley Donham

George Johnson, vice-chair  
Gayle Bray  
Lesanne Fliehler

Frank Mitros  
Emil Rinderspacher  
Buffie Tucker  
Pam Willard

Mary New  
Tom Rocklin  
Carolyn Wanat  
Nancy Williams