



## Professors Emeriti Network

*The source of innovation lies in the discovery of problems.*

*Solving a problem starts by asking the right question (problem identification).*

*Problems in the modern world cannot be efficiently and effectively detected without the use of information technology*

## **Call to Action: University Email Access for Professionally Active Retired Professors**

August 25, 2026

[Danube Rectors' Conference – DRC, Members](#)

[UniAdrión - Regular Members](#)

[Alps Adriatic Rectors' Conference \(AARC\), Members](#)

[Universities Austria](#)

[Association of Professors at Austrian Universities \(UPV\)](#)

[Hungarian Rectors' Conference \(HRC\)](#)

[German Association of University Professors and Lecturers](#)

[We are the Universities of the Netherlands](#)

[Conference of Italian University Rectors](#)

[Hellenic Universities Rectors' Conference \(HURC\)](#)

[Council of Rectors of Portuguese Universities \(CRUP\)](#)

[Swissuniversities](#)

[Irish Universities Association](#)

[Nordic Association of University Administrators](#)

[Baltic Sea Region University Network, Stockholm](#)

[European University Association \(EUA\), Brussels](#)

[Association of American University Professors](#)

[Australian Association of University Professors – AAUP](#)

[Canadian Association of University Teachers](#)  
[Japan Association of National Universities - JANU](#)  
[National University of Singapore Society \(NUSS\)](#)  
[International Association of Universities \(IAU\)](#), Paris  
[The Worldwide Universities Network \(WUN\)](#)

Dear University Association Representatives,

We would like to invite university associations to consider an increasingly important issue for universities and their retired academic colleagues: *What should university associations do to help member universities ensure that professionally active retired professors can retain and use their university email accounts after retirement?* We would like to move this issue beyond discussion and invite university associations to take concrete action in cooperation with their member universities.

Retirement from university employment does not necessarily mean retirement from academic and professional life. Many retired professors continue to conduct research, publish, participate in conferences, mentor younger colleagues, collaborate internationally, and contribute to academic and social development. In an increasingly digital academic environment, a university email address is more than a communication tool. It can represent a professor's continuing academic identity and provide a practical means of maintaining professional relationships and collaboration.

We therefore encourage university associations to take practical action by:

- *Surveying member universities* to identify their policies and practices regarding email access after retirement.
- *Collecting examples of good practice* from universities that allow professionally active retired professors to retain their university email accounts.
- *Developing recommendations or guidelines* for fair and sustainable post-retirement email policies.
- *Encouraging member universities* to distinguish between retirement from employment and retirement from academic and professional activity.
- *Promoting appropriate conditions* for continued email access, including security, data protection, account management, and clear eligibility criteria.
- *Facilitating dialogue* among university leaders, active professors, retired professors, IT departments, and relevant associations.
- *Considering the impact of AI and digital collaboration*, which increasingly enable retired professors to remain productive members of academic networks.
- *Monitoring progress* and sharing successful policies across universities and countries.

We believe that universities can protect their IT systems and institutional interests while also recognizing the continuing contribution of professionally active retired professors.

We therefore invite your association to open a discussion with its member universities and explore *whether continued university email access should become a recognized form of support for professors who remain academically and professionally active after retirement.*

We would be pleased to exchange experiences, collect examples of university policies, and collaborate on recommendations that could be shared internationally.

*Retirement should mark the end of employment—not necessarily the end of academic collaboration.*

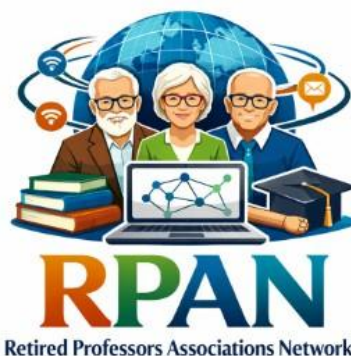
You are cordially invited to attend the Zoom meeting *Retired professors use artificial intelligence (AI) tools. Sharing best practices* on Wednesday, September 16, 2026. Here is a list of currently registered participants (CC): [Emeriti Meeting 16.09.2026 Registered Participants List](#).

Dear University Association Representatives, we would like to move this issue beyond discussion and invite university associations to take concrete action in cooperation with their member universities. We would particularly welcome examples of universities that already allow professionally active retired professors to retain and use their university email accounts, including the conditions under which such access is provided.

We will keep you informed of the responses and developments.

With kind regards,

Members, Professors Emeriti Network, [Professors Emeriti Network](#)  
Members, Retired Professors Associations Network (RPAN), [Retired Professors Associations Network – RPAN](#)



*Age Builds Wisdom, Community Carries it Forward.*