



Age Builds Wisdom, Community Carries it Forward.

Retired Professors Associations Network – RPAN

Dear Colleagues,

Should a professor who remains academically and professionally active lose access to their university email account simply because they have retired from employment?

We believe this question deserves broader discussion among associations of retired professors.

The rapid development of artificial intelligence (AI) is creating new possibilities for retired professors to maintain academic contacts, participate in research and education, contribute their expertise, collaborate internationally, and remain connected with their universities and professional communities.

At the same time, many professors lose access to their university email accounts when they retire—even when they remain professionally active. This can make continued academic engagement more difficult and may unnecessarily weaken their established academic identity and networks.

We therefore invite associations of retired professors to discuss the following question: *Should universities provide continued access to university email accounts for professors who, after retirement, remain academically and professionally active in the age of AI?*

We would particularly welcome:

- examples of university policies concerning email access after retirement;
- experiences of retired professors who have lost or retained their university email accounts;

- examples of universities that provide continued access under appropriate conditions;
- proposals for fair, secure, and sustainable policies;
- views on how AI tools can support continued academic collaboration after retirement.

Our aim is not simply to preserve an email account. It is to explore how universities can recognize and support the *continued contribution of experienced professors after retirement in* an increasingly digital and AI-enabled academic environment.

We invite interested associations to share their experiences, proposals, and good practices so that these can contribute to a broader international discussion.

Retirement from employment should not necessarily mean retirement from academic life.

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

August 21, 2026

CC:

Members, [Professors Emeriti Network](#)



*Universities should provide the use of a university email account
to all active retired professors
so they can stay connected to academic networks*