



## Professors Emeriti Network

Videos of the network's Zoom meetings are posted on the [Emeriti Network YouTube](#) channel.

*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.*

### **Terminating university email accounts for retired professors who are still academically active is an unethical act.**

#### **Action needed.**

19. 06. 2026

Dear [Professors Emeriti Network](#) Member,

Dear [Retired Professors Associations Network](#) Member,

The abolition of university email accounts is expected to be a serious problem in 2026. Given the increasingly digitalized society, the problem will only increase in the coming years. Professors emeriti have a special opportunity and task in solving this problem. The *opportunity* is that, given their status, they personally do not have this problem, since at all universities they enjoy the privilege of maintaining an email account and associated e-services after retirement. The *task* is that they can help their retired colleagues who do not have this status and whose university email accounts are terminated upon retirement.

Given our knowledge of the situation, it can be concluded that this is increasingly obvious unethical behavior on the part of the university administration. You may like to read a short e-article [Emeriti Terminating university email accounts for retired professors who remain academically active is an unethical act ChatGPT 20.06.2026](#).

The excuses given by some universities are "high costs" without explaining what the costs are and how high they are. The second reason is "safety". Research shows that retired professors are not a safety risk. Perhaps there is another reason

that is not wanted to be written about: ageism, which cannot be a credit to the university.

We will be discussing this topic again at one of the network's Zoom meetings. Perhaps in November 2026. I invite you to let me know if you would like to participate in the preparation and implementation of the meeting.

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## Suggestions

June 2026

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20.06.2026

[Dr. Marc Tennant, Winthrop Professor](#) AM, BDS<sub>c</sub> FRACD(GDP) FICD FADI  
Chair of the Academic Board, Member of the Senate, The University of Western Australia  
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We have had "**email-for-life**" in place with Emeriti (about 150-200) for the last 5+ years.

I can report, to the best of my knowledge, that there has been **NO major security / safely issue** in the 5+ years emanating from the Emeriti. Over the same period, there have clearly been many issues with other people within the university.

In terms of cost, we are partway through our second activity Census for our Emeriti (a current response rate from active Emeriti of over 65%!!!) and with conservative assumptions our partway estimate is that Emeriti (n~150 active) provide about \$US10,000,000+ of service to the university PER YEAR. Including being authors on about 10% of the total publication output of the university.

**This puts the relative cost of "email-for-life" in the insignificant range! It's an amazing return on investment, frankly!**

Happy to share more once we have completed our Census and clearly happy to share the tool with others or even assist in running a Census for other Emeriti groups. A global Census of Emeriti contribution would be an amazing aspirational goal to achieve...

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20.06.2026

[Dr. Richard Welke, Regents Professor Emeritus](#)  
Computer Information Systems, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, United States  
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At Georgia State University we do retain our original emails address(es,) etc. for retired, tenured faculty.

HOWEVER, it's a royal pain to maintain these accounts, given we're off-site and no longer connected to the university network. They insist on 1/2-yearly updates of UN/PW's (down from quarterly!) and ask for other MFA's that may or may not

have been previously set-up, etc. I'll note that it's possible to separately obtain VPN access to the GSU network, but that requires additional skills and maintenance. Also, many already use a more protective VPN.

Many of my retired colleagues find this too much to keep up with as they "age out." These are prior "tech" professors; those wi/o tech skills/understanding are at a more significant disadvantage.

A solution I recommend to them is forwarding their campus email address to the one or two email accounts they do maintain (more easily and routinely). Typically, on campus tech support can do this for them. Universities IMO don't make account maintenance user friendly for retired, off-site faculty.

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21.06.2026

[Dr. Niels Bjørn-Andersen, Professor Emeritus](#)

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I have been employed at Copenhagen Business School since 1969, when I started as a PhD student. Became full professor in 1987 and decided to retire at the age of 72,5 in September 2016.

I could have stayed, but generous retirement plans provided me with almost the same income as full employment, and the university had to lay off staff due to a temporary budget reduction.

When I retired in September of 2016, I was allowed to

- keep an office, although I had to accept a reduction in size from a two window to a one window office. After a few years, I had to share the office with another retired professor, and just last week at the age of 82, I had to vacate that office due to shortage of office space. A special day after having had an office for 57 years
- keep my e-mail account and Internet access. By the way it is the same e-mail I have always had ever since I got the first e-mail in the university in 1987, when I started using digital communication with 'go-fors' and other communication means with the help of a dial-up modem.
- keep access to university library
- keep access to free parking with other staff

I hope I can continue having access to Internet, library, and parking

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22.06.2026

[Dr. Luigi Campanella, Professor Emeritus](#)

Environmental and Cultural Heritage Chemistry, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.  
[Chair, Section on Ethics](#), European Associations of Professors Emeriti – EAPE.  
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To maintain email address to emeriti and retired when still active for their respective departments is an important step of democracy against a selection of scientific schools which could be influenced by the means of ICT available. So, the core is not

administrative, neither political but ethic. Scientific competition must take place between equally equipped concurrents and the freedom of open science must not be compromised.

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23.06.2026

[Dr. Nina M. Silverstein, Professor Emerita](#)

Gerontology Institute, [University of Massachusetts Boston](#), United States

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I am fortunate that the policy at my university is that faculty members who retire may keep their University of Massachusetts Boston email accounts for life. Staff members who retire and wish to continue using the university email system must formally request that their email accounts be kept active.

*Why is it important for faculty and staff who wish to retain their campus email address to be able to do so?*

An Ad Hoc workgroup of the Emeriti Network\* recently considered this question and came up with a list of benefits to both the individual and to the institution. Examples of benefits for the individual retaining an institutional email account include facilitating ongoing projects and collaborative efforts with professional colleagues that extend beyond retirement, providing access to library holdings and bibliographic databases for continued research and peer review, and preserving one's digital legacy.

Benefits to the institution include maintaining a donor base, continuing reputational standing through publications and research projects identified with the institution's ".edu," and facilitating continued service to the campus through mentorship and adjunct teaching opportunities.

In my opinion, discontinuing this benefit is short-sighted and hinders the productivity of those who can continue to contribute valuable expertise to the university and to the larger global society.

\*The Ad Hoc workgroup was chaired by Dr. Albert Hermsen, USA (Chair); Dr. Heinz V. Dreher, Western Australia; Dr. Jože Gricar, Slovenia; Dr. Sandra Patricia Hirst, Canada; Dr. Michelle Porter, Canada; and Dr. Nina M. Silverstein, USA.

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### [eMonument to Age-friendly University: Email account retention upon retirement](#)

The website of [Emeriti initiative: University email account retention upon retirement](#) was launched on October 28, 2025. It aims to encourage university administration to ensure that retired professors can use university information technology even after retirement. This is beneficial for retirees, the university and for society. Externally, this will be a clear sign that the university is friendly to retired colleagues.

The initiative is a meaningful upgrade to the website [Using Digital Technologies for Active Aging](#), launched on February 10, 2024, with the aim of drawing attention to the great opportunities of using digital technology in the [longevity](#) society, with special regard to the growing share of persons aged 55+. The use of digital technologies in active aging is crucial for promoting social engagement, providing access to information and healthcare, ensuring safety and security, supporting cognitive function, and enhancing the overall well-being and quality of life for seniors.