

Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE)
Minutes of Meeting
September 16, 2016

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Rules and Elections met at 11:06 AM on September 16, 2016 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Lin Tian presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Tian welcomed members and Laura Martin. She prioritized the work of the committee for this year, highlighting the document on voting rights that member Vanderschraaf had started in the last academic year. This document recommends voting policies specific to UC Merced, and the committee agreed that having a follow-up meeting in October specific to this document would be helpful. Member Vanderschraaf will develop a rough draft and circulate the document to the committee for review, with a timeline of a few weeks after the CRE meeting planned for Spring 2017.

Regarding the Division Council meetings held on August 23 and September 8, Chair Tian reported that cluster hiring has been a source of discussion among faculty as well as between the faculty and the administration. With regard to the 2020 Project, resource allocation, particularly space, remains a high priority with faculty.

II. Requests from HWC

CRE has received two review requests from Humanities and World Cultures (HWC):

- a. The first was a request from Kathleen Hull, for clarification of Bylaw-55 regarding the right to express an opinion on a case for which a faculty member does not have voting rights. Member Vanderschraaf stated that there is nothing explicitly written about participating in discussions on a case in any document. Units can establish their own policy, and so whatever HWC wants to do, they should document it, as they are within their rights to grant people who do not have voting rights, the right to vote. This granting of voting rights would be made at their discretion. Member Davila added that any changes to a Units documentation should be well-communicated, so that junior faculty are made aware, as there have been times when Units make changes without clearly stating so. The question was raised about whether CRE has ever been asked this question before, and member Vanderschraaf did not recall, though the question has been raised on other campuses.

Chair Tian will write a memo to Kathleen Hull that they have the right to grant voting rights at their discretion, and will also refer to the voting rights document in development.

- b. At the end of the Spring 2016 semester, Ignacio López-Calvo, AY 15-16 HWC Chair, requested that CRE provide a review of their Bylaws, with particular consideration to the following questions:
 - i. can untenured faculty comment on personnel cases of tenured faculty;
 - ii. if not, can that right be granted by full professors (for full cases) and full and associates (for associate cases) just as untenured faculty are granted the right to opine (and vote) on hiring cases.

As with the question from Kathleen Hull, units are welcome to provide untenured faculty the ability to comment on personnel, though CRE has historically recommended against it. Member Vanderschraaf noticed two items that would be helpful for clarification. The structure of selecting their own Chair (Article 3, part A) should refer to a "[Borda count](#)" vote, this should be made explicit in the Bylaws. Also, there was no obvious rule for passing departmental measures other than personnel cases. Most Units adopt a simple majority rule, and if HWC is doing this, it should also be made explicit. There was not a specific rule about the extending and rescinding of

membership, and the members agreed this should be clearly stated under Article 2, Membership. They should also be clear whether a simple majority is sufficient, or if a more rigorous rule (2/3rds) is to be used. Section D on voting procedures should include percentage needed to approve voting rights. A question was raised about how points are used when a candidate for Chair is self-nominated, and if these points are submitted to the Dean, or otherwise how they are used. Additional clarification should be made on whether LSOE and LPSOE are able to vote on ladder appointments. It is up to the unit to do so, but it should be stated clearly.

Chair Tian will send a memo to former and current HWC Chairs with feedback and suggestions. HWC is welcome to resubmit their Bylaws, but it is not necessary.

III. Request from Diversity & Equity (D&E)

D&E Chair Golan-Boza requests that CRE review the requested modification to the Senate Bylaws for D&E to allow for an additional D&E committee member. The CRE membership agreed that this was a good idea, and having a representative from each school, possibly not just one but many if possible, would be important.

Chair Tian will send a memo approving the request as presented.

IV. CRE reference document on voting rights

As discussed during the Chair's Report, CRE will hold a dedicated meeting in October regarding this document, with the intent on distribution in Spring 2017.

V. Other Business

The committee was asked to comment on proposed technical revisions to APM Section 190, Appendix G, "Retirement Contributions on Academic Appointee Summer Salary".

Chair Tian will send a memo to DivCo with no comments regarding this issue.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM.

Attest:

Lin Tian, CRE Chair