

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS 2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

I. MEMBERSHIP

This year, the membership of the Rules Committee (discipline noted in brackets) included Martha Conklin (co-chair, hydrology), Daniel Simmons (co-chair, Law, UCD), Jean Olson (pathology, UCSF) and Teenie Matlock (cognitive psychology).

II. GENERAL PROCEDURES

The Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) issues formal Legislative Rulings to resolve disputes or clear up ambiguities regarding Senate authority, procedures, or jurisdiction. Legislative Rulings are binding unless modified by subsequent legislative or Regental action. CRE also prepares and reports to the Division, or to any of its Faculties, such changes and additions to their Bylaws and Regulations as it deems advisable; formally supervises all changes and additions to the Bylaws and Regulations proposed by other committees or by individuals; edits and publishes the Manual of the Merced Division at such intervals as it deems expedient; and determines whether a person meets the conditions for membership in the Division.

In academic year 2007-2008 CRE performed its business via teleconference and e-mail which has proven to be an efficient method for conducting the business brought before this committee.

III. FORMAL LEGISLATIVE RULINGS ISSUED

The complete Ruling, including background and rationale, can be found at the Senate's website (<http://senate.ucmerced.edu>) under Bylaws and Regulations, Appendix II

09.07 Voting Privileges

The committee structure envisioned by the School of Natural Sciences, under which each faculty member has voting privileges in a primary group, and rights to participate but not vote in secondary groups, does not violate a faculty member's voting rights under Academic Senate Bylaw 55 as long as all of the members of the Faculty have a right to vote on the final adoption of the plan.

11.07 Course Approval [Superseded by 1.08C]

Courses are subject to approval by a Faculty acting as an Academic Senate Bylaw 55 voting unit. The committee structure envisioned by the Undergraduate Council, under which Faculty approval be delegated to a committee, can only be advisory to Schools, as such delegation can only be done within the Schools.

12.07 School Elections

Elections have to be held as described in the UC Merced and School Bylaws, unless it is explicitly stated that elections are not held if the number of persons nominated is not in excess of the number of places to be filled.

1.08A Graduate Course Approval

The UC Merced Graduate and Research Council is delegated authority to establish rules for graduate education. Thus, the Research and Graduate Council has the authority to establish procedures for the review and approval of graduate emphasis areas and graduate groups. The Graduate and Research Council is also empowered to review proposals for graduate courses and to establish procedures for its internal review of graduate courses.

The UCM Divisional Bylaws expressly delegate all Divisional course approval authority to the Undergraduate Council. While the authority to approve courses rests with the Undergraduate Council, the exercise of that authority can be informed by course approval or rejection by the Graduate and Research Council.

1.08B Divisional Council Authority and Core 100

Since College One Executive Committee is a Divisional Council Committee, College One Executive Committee can be instructed by the Divisional Council to request substitute courses for Core 100 from the chairs of the School Faculties.

The Faculties of the Schools have sole authority to propose substitute courses for Core 100 and to submit these recommended courses for approval to the College One Executive Committee (or the Divisional Council if it chooses to exercise its authority due to lack of members of the College One Executive committee).

1.08C Course Approval [This ruling supersedes Ruling 11.07]

Courses are subject to approval by a Faculty acting as an Academic Senate Bylaw 55 voting unit. A faculty may delegate this authority to a duly constituted subcommittee of the Faculty.

IV. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS AND REGULATIONS

- A. The following proposed Bylaw changes were placed on the Merced Division Meeting Consent Calendar and approved. (*Complete language and rationale can be found on the Senate's website, Division Meeting Agendas for December 6, 2007 and May 22, 2008.*)

Senate Bylaw II.3.C.1, Membership
Editorial

Senate Bylaw II.3.C.2, Membership
Language sets term limits for Committee on Committees

Senate Bylaw II.3.E.a, Rules and Elections
Authority for CRE to make editorial changes.

Senate Bylaw II.4.B, Undergraduate Council Membership
Formalizes the role of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education as a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Undergraduate Council
Senate Bylaw III.1.B, Faculty Powers
Editorial.

The following Bylaw changes were placed on the Merced Division Meeting Agenda as New Business. Lacking a quorum this item was tabled.

Senate Bylaw II.1.A., Appointment
Authority of Committee on Committees
Senate Bylaw II.3.C.7, Vacancies
Authority of Committee on Committees

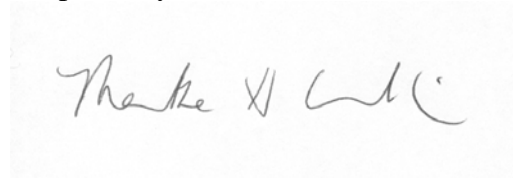
B. The following proposed Regulation change were placed on the Merced Division Meeting Consent Calendar and approved:

Senate Regulation 70.B, Dropping a Course
Clarifies the assignment of the notation "W"

IV. CONCLUSION

The Chair wishes to thank all members for the effort, quality and graciousness of their service. The Chair and all RC members wish especially to thank Nancy Clarke, first, for her good humor and second, for her expert, consistent, and timely advice.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Martha Conklin", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Martha Conklin