

**COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS
ANNUAL REPORT
2008-2009**

TO THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

I. 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 2008-2009 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.

II. FORMAL LEGISLATIVE RULINGS ISSUED

None.

III. 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 4, 2008 and May 4, 2009.*)

Approved at the December 4, 2008 Division Meeting:

Senate Bylaw II.2.A., Committees

Senate Bylaw II.2.B., Committees

Senate Bylaw II.4.B., Committees

Senate Bylaw II.4.C., Committees

Held for further discussion:

Senate Bylaw II.1.A., Committees

Following the Division Meeting, Senate members were invited to provide comments on the proposed bylaw change by a memo sent to all Senate members. After considering comments from Senate members and Divisional Council, this item was placed on the May 4, 2009 Division Meeting agenda as a discussion item and voted by mail ballot. It was approved by faculty on May 22.

The following proposed Regulation changes were placed on the May 4, 2009 Merced Division Meeting Consent Calendar and approved at the May 4 Division Meeting:

Senate Regulation 65, Academic Probation and Dismissal

Senate Regulation 75, Undergraduate Honors at Graduation. Approved by UCEP but will be placed on the systemwide Assembly agenda for the December 2009 Assembly meeting.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Revising Academic Senate Committee Bylaws.
CRE members examined the Bylaws for each Senate committee and drafted revised text. This task will continue in the 2009-2010 academic year.
- B. Policy and Procedure Manual: Establishment or Revision of Academic Units
CRE was asked by Divisional Chair Conklin to make recommendations to DivCo for developing a process by which faculty may organize into units governed under UC Title VI, Bylaw 55, which are responsible for voting on appointments and promotions that confer membership in the Academic Senate. CRE drafted policy and procedures on the establishment or revision of academic units and sent them to DivCo members for comments. The draft was submitted to EVC Alley who solicited comments from the School Deans. The final version was completed in May 2009. It is intended that this be incorporated into a UC Merced Academic Policy and Procedure Manual.
- C. Policy and Procedure Manual: Establishment or Revision of Academic Degree Programs
In order to compile and clarify policy and procedure for establishing or revising Academic Degree Program, CRE drafted a document incorporating present Academic Senate procedures for undergraduate and graduate degree program approval together with faculty and administrative steps in the approval process. This document was sent to Senate committees (UGC, GRC, CAPRA) and to EVC Alley for comment. The final version was completed in June 2009. It is intended that this be incorporated into a UC Merced Academic Policy and Procedure Manual.
- C. D. School Bylaws and Regulations.
CRE Chair O'Day began to consider the issue of School Bylaws and Regulations, specifically, the items in UC Merced's catalog that are not codified in Regulations or other official documents. CRE will explore this in more detail in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy O'Day, Chair (NS)
Tom Hansford, Vice Chair (SSHA)
Daniel Simmons (UC Davis)

Jean Olson, (UC San Francisco)

Ex-Officio:

Martha Conklin, Divisional Chair (ENG)

Mike Colvin, Divisional Vice Chair (NS)