

**COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS (CRE)  
ANNUAL REPORT  
AY 2024-2025**

**To the Merced Division of the Academic Senate:**

In AY 2024-2025, CRE held a total of 9 regularly scheduled meetings and 1 special meeting in order to conduct business with respect to its duties as outlined in UC Merced's [Senate Bylaw II.IV.8](#). Some business items were discussed and resolved via email.

**Elections**

The first Call for Nominations for four positions on the [Committee on Committees](#) (CoC) and two At-Large members of the [Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) was distributed to Senate members on January 8, 2025. Complete nomination forms were due to the Senate Office by January 22, 2025. In the absence of a sufficient number of nominations, the deadline to submit nominations was extended to February 6, 2025. The Election ballots were distributed on February 7, 2025. The ballot closed on February 14, 2025. Results [were announced](#) on February 14, 2025.

Elected Members of the [Committee on Committees](#) for two-year terms:

- Professor Eric Cheng, School of Engineering
- Professor Aditya Dasgupta, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts
- Professor Edward Kolodka, School of Engineering
- Professor Samantha Ocena, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts

Elected [Divisional Council](#) At-Large Members:

- Professor Stephanie Woo, School of Natural Sciences (one-year term)
- Professor Sidra Goldman-Mellor, School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts (two-year term)

**Consultation**

- CRE consulted with the University Committee on Rules & Jurisdiction (UCRJ) regarding UGC's request for guidance on non-Senate faculty voting rights on Undergraduate Council. Specifically, the interpretation of [Systemwide Senate Bylaw 35.C.2](#).

**Review Items**

CRE reviewed and offered comments on the following systemwide review items:

- Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 479 – Cal-GETC
- Proposed New Senate Regulation 627 – Posthumous Awarding of Degrees
- Presidential Policy on Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential
- Proposed Revisions to APM 675 – Veterinary Medicine Salary Administration
- Proposed Revisions to APM 036 – Employment
- Proposed Amendments to Systemwide Senate Bylaw 170 and Rescission of Systemwide Senate Bylaw 192
- Proposed Revisions to APM 500 – Recruitment
- Proposed New Presidential Policy on High-Containment Research
- Proposed Revisions to APM 360 – Appointment and Promotion, Librarian Series

- Proposed Revisions to APM 230 – Visiting Appointments

CRE reviewed and offered comments on the following campus wide review items:

- Proposal to Rename the UC Merced University Extension
- Proposed Revisions to MAPP 2013, 2014, 2053, and 2054
- Interim Policy on Expressive Activities and Assembly: Protests, Demonstrations, Non-University Speakers and Signage on Campus and in University Facilities
- Interim Policy on Consensual Relationships
- Policy on Assurance of Safety Standards
- Interim Policy on Withdrawal of Consent to Remain on University Property
- SOE Proposal to Change the Name of the Mechanical Engineering Department to Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Department

CRE took action on the following items:

- Endorsed the proposed amendments to the Divisional [Senate Regulation II.3.A \(Academic Notice\)](#), effective January 26, 2025.
- Reviewed and unanimously endorsed the new Library and Scholarly Communication (LASC) Conflict of Interest (COI) Policy and the revised Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) COI Policy via email.
- CRE reviewed and unanimously approved revisions to the following Senate committee's COI Policies to ensure the consistency of the use of gender-neutral language throughout all of the COI Policies:
  - Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)
  - Committee on Committees (COC)
  - Committee on Research (CoR)
  - Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE)
  - Divisional Council (DivCo)
  - Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF)
  - Graduate Council (GC)
  - Reserve Committee on Academic Personnel (RCAP)
  - Undergraduate Council (UGC)
- Evaluated and provided recommendations to the Mechanical Engineering (ME) Department in response to their questions about updating their Bylaws on voting rights.
- Evaluated and provided feedback on the Academic Personnel Office (APO)'s response to the Senate's comments on the proposed revisions to MAPP 2013, 2014, 2053, and 2054.
- Evaluated and voted to endorse the proposed amendments to the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF) Bylaws, the proposed new Bylaws for the Committee on Academic Freedom (CAF), and the proposed amendments to Part II. Titles III. and IV. of the Divisional Bylaws, effective June 17, 2025.
- Evaluated and provided CAP with an interpretation of [Merced Division Bylaw Part II.I.1.C](#) to mean that graduate group chairs are precluded from serving on the Committee on Academic Personnel, the Reserve Committee on Academic Personnel, and the Committee on Privilege and Tenure.
- Evaluated and provided UGC with feedback regarding a request pertaining to non-Senate faculty voting rights on Undergraduate Council.
- Reviewed and proposed non substantive revisions to the UC Merced Divisional Bylaws and

Regulations. This is an ongoing task that will continue into the Fall 2025 semester.

- Reviewed and provided feedback on the draft charge regarding the formation of a joint work group with faculty representatives from GC, UGC and CRE to evaluate and revise the Senate policies and procedures related to the academic oversight of UC Merced's Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) programs.

Respectfully submitted,

CRE Members:

Jeffrey Yoshimi (SSHA), Chair

Noemi Petra (SNS), Vice Chair

Michael Beman (SNS)

Aditi Chandra (SSHA)

Alex Petersen (SOE)

Staff:

Fatima Paul, Senate Executive Director

Sang Lee, Senate Analyst

Petra Martins, Senate Analyst