

**COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS
MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026**

In AY 2025-2026, CRE held a total of 9 regularly scheduled meetings 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 6, 2026. Complete nomination forms were due to the Senate Office by January 20, 2026. In the absence of a sufficient number of nominations, the deadline to submit nominations was extended to February 4, 2026. In the absence of a sufficient number of nominations for the At-Large members of DivCo, CRE asked CoC to provide additional nominees in order to complete the ballot, in accordance with [Senate Bylaw I.III.5.B](#). The Election ballots were distributed on March 30, 2026. The ballot closed on April 7, 2026. Results [were announced](#) on April 7, 2026.

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

- Professor Lindsay Crawford, School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts
- Professor Sora Kim, School of Natural Sciences
- Professor Nestor Oviedo, School of Natural Sciences
- Professor Matthew Zawadzki, School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts

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

- Professor Chih-Chun Chien, School of Natural Sciences (one-year term)
- Professor Deborah Wiebe, School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts (two-year term)

Review Items

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

- Revised APM 015, 016 and Interim Systemwide Guidelines for Faculty Discipline (9/22)
- Systemwide Senate Bylaw 140 - Affirmative Action, Diversity, and Equity (10/17)
- Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (10/17)
- Presidential Policy IMT-1300: Information Technology Accessibility (10/24)
- Academic Personnel Manual (APM) Section 036, General University Policy Regarding Academic Appointees/Employment (11/3)
- Presidential Policy on Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct (UC Research Misconduct Policy) (11/4)
- Presidential Policy on Education Loan Practices (11/25)
- Presidential Policy on Anatomical Donation Program and Anatomical Materials (2/20)
- Systemwide Academic Senate Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability (2/23)
- Presidential Policy Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations and Students (PACAOS) 100.0 and PACAOS-Appendix H (4/17)
- Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw 192 and Senate Regulations 636 & 761 (5/15)
- Systemwide Policies Applying to the University of California Police Department (UCPD) (6/11)

- Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43, Purchases of Goods and Services, Supply Chain Management (6/23)

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

- UC Merced Alcohol Service and Sales Policy (9/19)
- UCM Regulations on Employee Organization & Representative Access to University Property (9/19)
- PROC's Proposal for the Periodic Review of Administrative Functions (11/12)
- UCM Interim Policy on Micromobility Devices: Electric Scooters & E-Bikes (11/13)
- Proposed Revisions to MAPP 016 (Discipline), 2012 (Recruitment), and 6001 (Endowed Chairs & Scholarships) (1/12)
- UC Merced Interim Policy on Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct (2/5)
- UC Merced revised Policy on Philanthropic and Honorific Naming of UC Merced Properties, Academic and Non-academic Programs, and Facilities (2/5)
- Generative AI (GenAI) Educational Policy (5/26)

CRE took action on the following items:

- Reviewed and provided comments on GC's proposed amendments to Senate Regulation III.3.A. Scheduling of Examinations (10/17).
- Reviewed and endorsed GC's revised proposed amendments to Senate Regulation III.3.A. Scheduling of Examinations (12/18).
- Evaluated and provided guidance pertaining to an inquiry from the Economics and Business Management (EBM) Department regarding voting thresholds (12/18).
- Transmitted a memo to the Vice Provost for Academic Personnel regarding discrepancies with the online version(s) of the MAPP (1/13).
- Reviewed and endorsed AFAC's proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw IV.2.2.A. AFAC Membership (2/23).
- Unanimously voted to approve amending the UCM Bylaws to replace any references to University Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity (UCAADE) with University Committee on Diversity and Equity (UCODE) (3/11).
- Unanimously voted to approve proposed amendments to the Senate Bylaw I.V.5.D Voting, Senate Bylaw I.IV.2.C Divisional Council Terms and Senate Bylaw II.III.1.A.3 Assembly Representation Membership (4/15).
- Agreed to request copies of departmental bylaws along with information regarding how bylaws were tracked and maintained at the School level in an effort to gather information and develop a bylaw repository (5/6).

Respectfully submitted,

CRE Members:

Jeff Yoshimi (SSHA), Chair

Noemi Petra (SNS), Vice Chair

Paul Gibbons (SSHA)

Sarah Kurtz (SOE)

Staff:

Fatima Paul, Senate Executive Director
Sang Lee, Senate Analyst
Petra Martins, Senate Analyst