

Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE)

Approved Minutes

Thursday, November 29, 2018

9:00-10:00 AM – KL 326

The Committee for Rules and Elections met at 10:00 AM in Room 326 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Christopher Viney presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Christopher Viney*

Chair Viney welcomed members. Chair Viney began by updating members on possible forthcoming items from the previous DivCo meeting. He highlighted one specific item for the future, a tightening of regulations related to academic ties to several countries (via guidelines from the US State Department), as well as discussion on the declaration of any kind of paid activity that appears outside the normal behavior on one's paycheck from the university. Useful links have been sent out on these issues.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. [October 8 Meeting Minutes](#)
- B. [November 29 Agenda](#)

The agenda of the November 29, 2018 meeting was unanimously approved as presented, as well as the minutes from the October 8, 2018 meeting. All consent calendar items were passed without objection.

Action: The analyst will post the approved 11/29/18 agenda on the Senate website.

III. Matters Arising**IV. Campus Review Item**

- A. [Revised Conflict of Interest Policy](#)

Action Requested: Members discuss the proposed revisions and approve the revised policy.

Members discussed a potential policy revision, and a broader consideration of what is meant by the phrase “a personal interest”. They suggested adding to the footnote in CRE's *Conflict of Interest* statement, the point where personal interest is defined: “personal interest is not intended to be synonymous with personal engagement. Committee members will be motivated to serve due to their interest in the subject of the committee. . . . Involvement must pass the so-called newspaper test”.

The committee concluded that the following new sentence should be added to the footnote for approval: “If personal interest is tied to personal advancement, then the person should recuse themselves.”

- B. [Principles to Guide the Use of Executive Sessions](#) – *Boaz Ilan*

The proposed principles and associated practices are intended to establish for committee members, consultants, guests, and the broader campus community, a set of expectations for how executive sessions are conducted in the Senate, and to promote consistency in the implementation of executive sessions across Senate committees. Should the principles be endorsed by the Senate, they will be posted to the Senate website in partnership with the Guide to Committee Membership, which includes an overview of the purpose of executive sessions.

Action Requested: The analyst, on behalf of the Chair, will transmit comments to the Senate Chair by December 4, 2018.

Members discussed the way in which the Executive Session policy was developed. Several points were brought up that either contradicted each other or remained unclear. The matter of whether or not Executive Sessions are recorded (audio) was discussed at length, as well as redactions. More specific revisions include:

the need for clarification on Principles 1, 2, 4 and 5 under the Policy's Principles & Practices. Each point creates a sense of ambivalence about whether or not Executive Session discussions are to be recorded, and about the method of recording (through text and/or audio/visual recording). CRE voted to elect to comment and these revisions will be detailed in the memo that conveys CRE comments to the Senate Chair and Divisional Council.

C. [Policies for Awarding Posthumous Baccalaureate Degrees](#)

The revisions to the campus policy for awarding posthumous baccalaureate degrees are proposed by the Undergraduate Council. The proposed revisions follow a request from Academic Council (also attached) for campuses to review their policies in light of a model policy developed by the University Committee on Education Policy (UCEP). The attached are also available in [Box](#).

CRE is not a lead reviewer. Lead Committees are GC and the School Executive Committees.

Action Requested: CRE to decide whether to opine. If opining, a lead reviewer will be identified. The lead reviewer's comments will be sent to CRE members by no later than November 26 for inclusion in the December 3 CRE agenda. Comments are due to the Senate Chair by December 4, 2018.

The committee agreed to comment on this proposal, specifically that the wording of the proposed text should refer to "posthumously awarded degrees," not "awarding posthumous degrees". The analyst will prepare a memo for the Chair's review to be sent on to the Senate Chair.

D. [Revised Recommended Voting Policies in Academic Personnel Cases](#)

The proposed guidelines were discussed at the October 23 Divisional Council meeting. It was recommended that the document be returned to CRE with encouragement from DivCo to finalize it in consultation with the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom and the Committee for Diversity and Equity.

Proposed Actions:

- CRE discusses the document and associated comments
- CRE meets with the FWAF and D&E members or leads
- CRE responds to DivCo with a final version of proposed guidelines

The committee moved to work with the appropriate committees (FWAF and D&E) to finalize a draft of voting policies for DivCo's review. This document will be a descriptive document that highlights CRE's role in interpreting committee rules as well as describes in more detail, the guidelines that state minimum voting requirements. The finalized rewrite will codify these guidelines in the form of a history of the procedures for future use by bylaw units.

V. Any Other Competent Business

Meeting adjourned at 10: 55 AM.