

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS (CRE)**Meeting Minutes****Wednesday, November 20, 2024****1:15pm – 2:20pm**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Rules and Elections met at 1:15pm on November 20, 2024. Chair Jeff Yoshimi presiding.

I. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. [October 23 Meeting Minutes](#)

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

II. Chair's Report – Jeff Yoshimi

- A. Updates from [Divisional Council](#) Meetings (November 4 and 18)

November 4 DivCo Meeting

EVC/Provost Dumont attended a systemwide Congress focused on the University of California's commitment to becoming Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI). The discussion covered the topic of holding a Hispanic Serving Research Institution (HSRI) status. Currently, there are 25 HSRI institutions in the nation, five of which are UC campuses. EVC/Provost Dumont also shared that UC Merced's HSI status and initiatives received high praise from Congress attendees.

At the recent campus financial town hall, VC/CFO Schnier gave an update on campus revenue, expenditures, and the upcoming state deficit. In anticipation of reduced funding to the UCs, UC Merced academic units have been paying a 5% tax on their salaries (excluding faculty salaries). This tax was 4% last year but was increased because of the expected budget deficit. EVC/Provost Dumont plans to work with Senate leadership and CAPRA to create a shared approach for recommendations on the budget in the next few months, focusing on academic units.

A cybersecurity town hall was held last week to update the campus community on new systemwide security mandates that were introduced a year ago. IT is currently developing a communication plan for the campus, and EVC/Provost Dumont encouraged Divisional Council members to review the IT updates as they are shared.

Chair Yoshimi shared that PROC will begin reviewing procedures that span multiple units.

Chief of Police Her, Interim COS to the Chancellor Lucero, and VC & Chief Diversity Officer Saenz were in attendance to discuss and provide an overview on issues such as the purchase of military grade equipment.

November 18 DivCo Meeting

Senate Chair Mitchell reported that several workgroups have been formed to study the following issues: transitioning all UC campuses with undergraduate programs (excluding UCSF) to the semester system, reviewing systemwide faculty code of conduct policies, fully online degrees, and Artificial Intelligence. Senate Chair Mitchell also reported that all UC campuses should be planning for a potential 5.7%

reduction in the state budget next year.

Action: Chair Yoshimi encouraged members to review the [Legislative Analyst's Office \(LAO\) Report](#).

B. Updates from the Senate and Administration Governance Retreat (October 30, 2024)

The notes from the Senate and Administration Governance Retreat have been made available to retreat participants. Senate Committee Chairs are encouraged to review the notes and identify relevant areas for their committees' responsibilities.

III. Memorial to the Regents – Chair Yoshimi

The UCSF Division plans to introduce two Memorials to the Regents. These Memorials aim to expand Academic Senate membership to include into the Senate:

- 1) The Health Sciences Clinical Professor Series (see [APM 278](#))
- 2) The Adjunct Professor Series (see [APM 280](#))

Assuming the Memorials are approved by the UCSF Division, they will be distributed to all the UC Divisions sometime in December.

The systemwide Bylaws that govern the Memorial process are [Bylaw 90](#) and [Bylaw 95](#).

No feedback is requested at this time. The Senate leadership is currently waiting for an update from Academic Council and UCR&J. I

Members discussed the two different titles under consideration. There did not seem to be too many concerns with the Health Sciences Clinical Professor Series becoming Senate members. However, CRE members thought including the Adjunct Professor Series in the Senate could be complicated. The Adjunct Professor Series is in itself vague and is utilized very differently across campuses.

Members discussed their various experiences with Adjunct Professors. One member noted that there was an Adjunct Professor in their department that was not paid by the department but was provided an office space and an opportunity to be affiliated with the department. Another member shared that in their department the expectations were unclear regarding Adjunct Professors and their departmental roles. The general feeling was that several individuals were looking to collaborate with UC Merced, and therefore held Adjunct appointments at the university. Overall, members agreed that expectations within departments seemed unclear, which may be an indicator of challenges in determining contributions to the Senate.

Members discussed the variance in salaries associated with the Adjunct Professor Series and wondered how Senate service could or should be expected of individuals who are on unpaid Adjunct appointments.

Members discussed the Bylaws that governs the Memorial process, and the voting procedure as outlined in Bylaw 90 and Bylaw 95.

IV. [Updates from Governance Retreat and Priorities](#) – All

The notes and the list of priorities from the Governance Retreat on October 30, 2024, are linked in the title above.

Action: Chair Yoshimi encouraged members to review the documents, specifically the table of priorities, and identify any priorities that pertain to CRE's duties. Members will discuss this item at the December 4 CRE meeting.

V. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm.

Attest: Jeff Yoshimi, CRE Chair