

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS (CRE)**MEETING MINUTES****Wednesday, December 4, 2024****1:15pm – 2:00pm**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Rules and Elections met at 1:15pm on December 4, 2024. Chair Jeff Yoshimi presiding.

I. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. [November 20 Meeting Minutes](#)

Action:

- The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

II. Chair's Report – Jeff Yoshimi

- A. Updates from [Divisional Council](#) Meeting (December 2)
EVC/Provost Dumont presented a slide containing a tally of Senate Faculty FTE from 2019-2024 that her office collected. She pointed out the significant growth in faculty numbers over this time frame, however noted that now the growth has leveled off. EVC/Provost Dumont then provided an update on the campus budget reduction exercise.

PROC is working to identify which administrative process will potentially be submitted for review. The current options are post-award administration, advising, transfer course articulation, and lab renovations for faculty. There appeared to be the most support for post-award processes and advising to be chosen for PROC review.

Chair Yoshimi summarized the proposed amendments to SR II.3.A (Academic Probation). Divisional Council members had no additional comments. Divisional Council unanimously endorsed the proposed amendments, and they will be presented for final consideration and vote at the Meeting of the Division on December 16, 2024.

Divisional Council discussed the proposed SSHA restructuring plan and revised Bylaws and ultimately voted to endorse the proposal.

A consultant, Dr. Crystal Fleming and her collaborator, have been hired to conduct an external assessment of the Academic Senate. They will be reaching out to Senate members to hold three working group sessions with current and past Senate committee chairs to obtain their input on the survey questions for the assessment. The goal is to hold these sessions before the 2024 winter break, however Divisional Council members expressed concerns with the timeline and believed it would be more effective to hold the sessions after the winter break.

- B. Reminder: December 16 Meeting of the Division
- C. [Timeline for Elections](#)
Members reviewed the timeline for the Elections. One member inquired why some positions are elected while others are appointed by CoC. The CRE Analyst clarified that the CoC and At-Large Divisional Council members are elected and then CoC appoints other Senate members. Another member inquired

what CRE's role was in the Election process, specifically when there is not a sufficient number of nominations received.

Actions:

- After the meeting, the CRE Analyst discussed with the Executive Director why At-Large members of DivCo are elected by the Division, rather than appointed by CoC. At-Large members of DivCo are elected by the Division as that is what is stated in [Bylaw I.IV.1.B.](#) of the Merced Division. This is similar to what is done at UC Berkeley.
- The CRE Analyst asked the Executive Director if CRE has a role in the Elections if a sufficient number of nominations are not received, in addition to repeating the Call for nominations. In the event of an insufficient number of nominations being received, the Secretary/Parliamentarian will send the extension to the Call. No action will be required of CRE members, however they will be apprised of the Election's progress.

III. [Updates from Governance Retreat and Priorities](#)

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

Members reviewed the table of priorities and agreed that some of the items could potentially become items for CRE to review, but only if action were taken by other groups first.

Actions:

- Members agreed that there were not any priorities that pertain to CRE's duties, however wanted to add the following priority:
“As actions are taken that involve process or consensus, CRE would like to be kept in the loop.”
- The CRE Analyst will notify the Senate Chair and Executive Director.

IV. Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm.

Attest: Jeff Yoshimi, CRE Chair