

Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE)**Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 11, 2024
1:00pm – 2:30pm**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Rules and Elections met at 1:00pm on March 11, 2024. Chair Christopher Viney presiding.

I. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. [February 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes](#)

Action: Today's agenda was approved, and the February 12 Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved by members by 5:00pm, Friday, March 15th. Following approval, the agenda and Meeting Minutes were published on the Senate website.

II. Chair's Report – Christopher Viney

- A. Updates from [Divisional Council](#) Meetings ([February 12](#) and February 26)
Chair Viney reported that on February 12, 2024, DivCo endorsed the proposed Bylaws for the Division of Undergraduate Education Executive Committee (DUEEC). The final version is being voted on by the faculty. Chair Viney suggested to members to encourage their colleagues to vote on the proposed DUEEC Bylaws.. On February 26, 2024, DivCo discussed the proposal for the Establishment of a Department of Medical Education. Chair Viney informed members that DivCo had contacted the proposers to request additional information.
- B. [Senate Election Results](#)
Chair Viney provided a summary of the Senate Election results. Four Senate faculty members have been elected to serve on CoC for two-year terms, while two Senate faculty members have been elected to serve on DivCo as At-Large representatives.
- C. [Revision to AFAC Bylaws](#)
Chair Viney reported that AFAC expressed gratitude to CRE for their suggestions and adopted the revised AFAC Bylaws.
- D. Update on UGC's proposed amendments to [Senate Regulation I.1.E.](#) (Passed/Not Passed)
Chair Viney reported that UGC's proposed amendments will clarify that a required or a prerequisite course for a student's major can only be taken on a Pass/No Pass (P/NP) basis upon approval from the departmental faculty. The revision will be discussed at the Divisional Council and will be subject to a vote during the Spring 2024 Meeting of the Division.

III. [Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw II.III.2.A. \(CAP\)](#) – Chair Viney

Per CRE's request on October 25, 2023 and recent ruling, CAP discussed possible revisions to [Senate Bylaw II.III.2.A. – CAP.](#)

CAP's proposed revisions, approved unanimously by the committee, are available in tracked changes

[here](#).

In response to CRE’s ruling, CAP has put forth a minor alteration to the CAP Bylaws, suggesting that members must hold the rank of full Professors or full Teaching Professors. CRE Members agreed that the proposed revisions looked good, however, they raised a concern regarding the potential long-term possible scenario of the committee being exclusively composed of full Teaching Professors. CRE Members also discussed the possibility of implementing a rule to ensure a balanced representation within the committee, with 50% of members being full Professors and 50% being full Teaching Professors. Despite the potential scenario mentioned, CRE Members voted to endorse the proposed revisions to the CAP Bylaws.

Action: Members unanimously endorsed the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw II.III.2.A (CAP). The CRE Analyst will draft a memo reflecting the committee’s comments and circulate it to members for review.

IV. [Implementation of Senate Regulation 630.E](#) – Laura Hamilton, Professor and Chair of Sociology
Professor and Chair of Sociology Laura Hamilton is representing UC Merced faculty on the UC Systemwide Taskforce on Online Education and will attend the meeting to introduce this topic.

In February 2023, the Academic Senate endorsed Senate Regulation 630.E, which created a “campus experience” requirement that students must complete in order to earn an undergraduate degree, which had the effect of precluding the creation of any fully online undergraduate degrees by campuses and preventing any individual students, with the exception of incarcerated students, from being able to obtain an undergraduate degree by enrolling only in online classes. The campus experience requirement in SR 630.E requires enrollment in a minimum number of units in courses with at least 50 percent in-person instruction.

On February 14, 2024, the Board of Regents rejected the amendment to Senate Regulation 630.E. The video of the full Board’s discussion can be found [here](#). The written summary can be found [here](#). A redacted digest of the Board’s discussion, in the form of a [video memo](#), has been prepared by UCEP Chair Melanie Cocco; it includes Chair Cocco’s informative commentary about the background to the Regulation and the regental vote.

This item will be introduced during the March 11, 2024 DivCo meeting.

Professor and Chair of Sociology, Laura Hamilton, emphasized that the systemwide Senate highlighted the importance of including in-person components in students' degree requirements. This emphasis led to the adoption of Senate Regulation 630.E. However, as noted above, the Board of Regents declined to approve this amendment to Senate Regulation 630.E. Instead, they reaffirmed the autonomy of individual campuses to determine their own policies regarding in-person components within their respective campuses. Professor Hamilton noted that several campuses are interested in proposing their own regulations at the campus level. It seems that different campuses have varying rules regarding the percentage of online experience permissible for students. Currently, UC Merced permits students to fulfill a maximum of 30% of their coursework online. In contrast, other campuses have policies allowing for as much as 50% of coursework to be completed online.

Professor Hamilton highlighted significant concerns regarding faculty rights over their intellectual property. She emphasized that this situation poses a threat to the ownership of academic materials, particularly as online programs may attempt to profit from and commercialize faculty-authored academic

materials. Professor Hamilton clarified that the argument is not aimed at shutting down online programs altogether. Rather, the concern revolves around exclusively online undergraduate degrees, where students have never physically attended the campus, raising significant apprehensions.

V. Systemwide Review Items – Chair Viney

A. [Proposed Amendment to Senate Regulation \(SR\) 423.A.3 \(Area H\)](#)

The amendment introduces a new requirement for freshman admission to the University (Area H). The amendment to the SR is provided in red font on page 3.

Please refer to the attached memos from Academic Council Chair Steintrager and BOARS Chair Knowlton for background information about this item.

CRE is a lead reviewer.

Chair Viney has agreed to serve as lead reviewer.

CRE members expressed concerns about how the proposed requirement 424.A.3.h may be difficult to meet at some high schools. Additionally, CRE noted that there is substantial evidence indicating that this potential negative impact is not anticipated to be widespread. Furthermore, CRE highlighted that while the Comprehensive Review and Admission-by-Exception offer relief for students unable to meet all requirements of Senate Regulation 424.A.3, it is limited to a small fraction of total admissions.

Overall, CRE supported the addition of requirement 424.A.3.h to Senate Regulation 424.A.3. However, CRE believes strongly that the implementation, and the positive consequences for inclusivity of that addition will be best served if it is accompanied by a clear timeline for implementation. Furthermore, explicit guidelines should be offered to students from non-traditional pathways, including those who are home-schooled, regarding how they might meet the A-H criteria.

Action: CRE sent a response memo to the Senate Chair on March 12, 2024.

B. [Report of the University of California Systemwide Advisory Work Group on Students with Disabilities](#)

As noted in the memo from VP Gullatt, this “report is the first-ever, comprehensive record of the experiences and outcomes of students with disabilities at UC”.

Member Beman agreed to serve as lead reviewer.

Action: Member Beman’s comments will be circulated via email by Monday, April 1 in order to be finalized and sent to the Senate Chair by Monday, April 8.

C. [Proposed Academic Statement on UC Quality \(“Characteristics of Educational Quality at the University of California”\)](#)

This document was prepared by the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP).

Background information is available on the hyperlinked memos from Academic Council Chair Steintrager and UCEP Chair Cocco and the proposed statement is available on pp. 4-5.

Vice-Chair Petra agreed to serve as lead reviewer.

Action: Vice-Chair Petra’s comments will be circulated via email by Friday, April 12 in order to be finalized and sent to the Senate Chair by Friday, April 19.

VI. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30pm.

Attest: Christopher Viney, CRE Chair