

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS (CRE)**Meeting Minutes****Wednesday, September 25, 2024****1:15pm – 2:45pm**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Rules and Elections met at 1:15pm on September 25, 2024. Chair Jeff Yoshimi presiding.

I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Yoshimi introduced himself and welcomed members to the committee. Members then introduced themselves.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. [CRE's Conflict of Interest \(COI\) Policy](#)¹

Action: Today's agenda and CRE's Conflict of Interest Policy were approved as presented and published on the Senate website. The CRE Analyst notified the Senate Chair that CRE had no concerns with its COI Policy.

III. Informational: CRE Resources

Members are encouraged to read the information described below prior to the meeting.

A. Duties of CRE

The Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) advises the Division on proposed legislation and on all matters of organization, jurisdiction, and interpretation of legislation. Upon formal request, CRE issues legislative rulings interpreting the Code of the Merced Division of the Academic Senate. CRE also reviews changes in Bylaws and Regulations submitted to the Divisional Assembly or to a Faculty of the Merced Division, and supervises all elections of the Division. The committee's Bylaws are available [here](#).

B. [Membership](#)

- Jeff Yoshimi, Chair, SSHA
- Noemi Petra, Vice Chair, SNS
- Michael Beman, SNS
- Aditi Chandra, SSHA
- Alex Petersen, SOE

Ex-Officio (non-voting):

- Kevin Mitchell, Senate Chair, SNS
- Courtenay Monroe, Senate Vice Chair, SSHA

C. [Meeting Schedule](#) (Wednesdays, 1:15-2:45pm via Zoom)

- September 25
- October 23
- November 20

¹ All Senate Committees are encouraged to review their respective COI policy at their first meeting in the Fall. All Senate Committees COI policies are available on the Senate website: <https://senate.ucmerced.edu/conflict-interest>

- December 4
- D. [CRE's Box Site](#) (all internal committee documents will be posted on this site)
- E. [CRE's AY 23-24 Annual Report](#)
- F. [UCM Bylaws and Regulations](#)
- G. [Systemwide Senate Bylaws and Regulations](#)
- H. UCM [Senate Website](#) and Systemwide [Senate Website](#)
- I. UCM [Senate Policies and Procedures](#)
- J. [Principles to Guide the Practice of Executive Session](#)
- K. [Consultation Guidelines](#)
- L. [CoC's Guide to Populating Academic Senate Committees: Leadership and Membership Commitments](#)

Action: Chair Yoshimi encouraged members to review the informational materials linked in the agenda.

IV. Chair's Report – Jeff Yoshimi

- A. Updates from [Divisional Council](#) Meetings (September 9 and 23)

Chair Yoshimi provided a brief update on the September 9 and September 23 DivCo meetings. EVC/P Dumont was present at both meetings and SSHA Dean Arriola attended the September 23 meeting. Chair Yoshimi referred members to the minutes available on the DivCo webpage for additional details.

- B. Upcoming event: Senate and Administration Governance Retreat (October 30, 2024)

Chair Yoshimi notified members that he will be attending the upcoming Senate and Administration Governance Retreat.

Action: Chair Yoshimi requested that members send him any items they would like discussed at the retreat.

- C. Upcoming item: FWF Bylaws

Executive Director Paul informed CRE members that FWF plans to divide into two committees: The Faculty Welfare Committee and the Academic Freedom Committee. Executive Director Paul also noted that the proposed revisions to the FWF Bylaws will be submitted to CRE for their review.

V. CRE Priorities AY 24-25 – All

CRE's AY 23-24 priorities are provided [here](#) as a reference.

A CRE member requested clarification on one of the AY 23-24 priorities which states: "Continue efforts to ensure that language in Bylaws and Regulations – at Senate, School and Departmental levels – embodies our collective commitment to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion." Executive Director Paul clarified that CRE members are encouraged to suggest revisions to the UC Merced Bylaws. It is within CRE's purview to review the Bylaws to ensure inclusive language.

Action: Chair Yoshimi requested that members propose priorities for AY 24-25. The CRE Analyst drafted a preliminary list of priorities based on the committee's comments. Members are encouraged

to come prepared to discuss and finalize the priorities at CRE’s October 23 meeting.

VI. Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulations 900 and 902 – Chair Yoshimi

On June 21, 2024 the Assembly approved amendments to Senate Regulations 900 and 902.

UC Merced’s Regulations will need to be aligned with systemwide. The corresponding UCM Regulation is [Section 3. A. “Academic Probation”](#). The term “probation” in UC Merced’s Regulation should be replaced by “academic notice”.

CRE members reviewed and accepted the proposed revisions and agreed that UGC should be invited to review them before the campus review takes place.

Action: Members unanimously voted to approve the proposed amendments to Senate Regulation II.3.A (Academic Probation). The CRE Analyst will draft a memo containing the committee’s approval. The final memo will be transmitted to UGC and DivCo.

VII. Mechanical Engineering (ME) Voting Rights – Chair Yoshimi

The Mechanical Engineering (ME) Department is potentially interested in updating their voting rights and is seeking clarification on the following:

- There are two non-Senate carryover cases from the previous academic year. Per ME’s current, approved voting rights, both tenured and security of employment faculty are eligible to vote on these cases. When the cases were first brought before the department, one of the tenured faculty was on sabbatical and chose to abstain from voting, while another faculty member was in the process of obtaining security of employment. Now, in the new academic year, the first faculty member has returned from sabbatical and the second faculty member has successfully obtained security of employment. If the department were to change their voting rights now, would that apply to those cases that were carried over? Or, if the current rights remain should the two faculty members indicated above abstain or recuse themselves from these cases?
- [Bylaw 55](#) states the following:
"Any extensions of the voting privilege under this Article C must remain in effect for at least one calendar year (twelve months); thereafter, any faculty member entitled to a vote on the cases in question under the provisions of paragraphs 1 to 6 of Article B of this Bylaw may request reconsideration."

Does the campus practice to revisit the voting rights each year and determine whether they will remain, conflict with the Bylaws if it has not been a full 12 months?

Chair Yoshimi noted that he would be recused from reviewing and providing feedback on this item due to a conflict of interest.

Actions:

- Member Petersen volunteered to serve as lead reviewer and will consult with his faculty colleagues in the School of Engineering.
- Executive Director Paul reached out to the SOE staff to inquire about their requested deadline for a response.

- The CRE Analyst will follow up with Member Petersen during the week of October 7 to check in and inquire about feedback from SOE faculty.
- If Member Petersen would like to seek feedback from UCRJ, he will reach out to Executive Director Paul.

VIII. Campus and Systemwide Review Items – Chair Yoshimi

A. [Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 479 \(Cal-GETC\)](#) (Systemwide)

The proposed revisions to Senate Regulation 479 address the California General Education Transfer Curriculum (Cal-GETC). The revisions are provided in tracked changes on page 7 of the document, hyperlinked in the title above.

CRE is a lead reviewer.

Actions:

- Vice Chair Petra agreed to serve as lead reviewer.
- Lead reviewer’s comments will be circulated via email by Friday, October 11. The CRE memo will be finalized during the October 23 meeting and submitted to the Senate Chair **by Friday, October 25.**

B. [Proposed New Senate Regulation 627 \(Posthumous Awarding of Degrees\)](#) (Systemwide)

The proposed new Senate Regulation 627 (Posthumous Awarding of Degrees) governs the awarding of undergraduate and graduate degrees to students who pass away before their completion of the degree. Please refer to the memo, hyperlinked in the title above, for background information.

CRE is a lead reviewer.

Actions:

- Member Chandra agreed to serve as lead reviewer.
- Lead reviewer’s comments will be circulated via email by Friday, October 11. The CRE memo will be finalized during the October 23 meeting and submitted to the Senate Chair **by Friday, October 25.**

C. [Proposed Revisions to MAPP Sections 2013, 2014, 2053 and 2054](#) (Campus Wide)

A [Cover memo from VPAP Hansford](#) includes a brief summary of the proposed revisions.

- MAPP 2013–Appointment for the Professor Series
 - [Clean version](#)
 - [Tracked changes version](#)
- MAPP 2014–Merit, Promotion, Appraisal Review for the Professor Series
 - [Clean version](#)
 - [Tracked changes version](#)
- [MAPP 2053–Appointment for the Teaching Professor Series](#) (The entire document has been revised, making a tracked-changes version unnecessary).
- [MAPP 2054–Merit, Promotion and Appraisal Reviews for the Teaching Professor Series](#) (The entire document has been revised, making a tracked-changes version unnecessary).

CRE is a lead reviewer.

Actions:

- Member Beman agreed to serve as lead reviewer.
- Lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by Monday, October 21. The CRE memo will be finalized via email and submitted to the Senate Chair **by Monday, October 28.**

IX. Other Business

A. [UC Merced Interim Policy on Expressive Activities and Assembly: Protests, Demonstrations, Non-University Speakers and Signage on Campus and in University Facilities](#) (Campus Wide)

Members briefly discussed whether this was a new policy and where the directive was coming for such a policy. Executive Director Paul noted that it was in response from a directive from UCOP.

Actions:

- Members are encouraged to review and provide feedback.
- Lead reviewer: Chair Yoshimi
- Lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email **by Friday, October 11** in order to be included on CRE's October 23 agenda. Comments are due to the Senate Chair **by Monday, November 18.**

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

Attest: Jeff Yoshimi, CRE Chair