

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS (CRE)**MEETING MINUTES****Monday, March 17, 2025****1:00pm – 2:30pm**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Rules and Elections met at 1:00pm on March 17, 2025. Chair Jeff Yoshimi presiding.

I. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. [February 24 Meeting Minutes](#)

Action:

- The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

II. Chair's Report – Jeff Yoshimi

- A. Updates from [Divisional Council](#) Meetings ([February 25](#) and March 11)
A 5% budget reduction will be implemented collectively across the campus. Per the EVC/Provost's request, CAPRA is reviewing the Academic Affairs units' itemized budget reductions and will provide feedback to the EVC/Provost. The Academic Affairs budget reduction proposals will be combined with those from other campus units for a discussion among campus leadership prior to the final recommendations being submitted to the Chancellor. The Senate Chair, Senate Vice Chair (and CAPRA member) and the CAPRA Chair will participate in those discussions.

Divisional Council members met with Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Marketing Hagg and discussed concerns around the overall faculty workload and encouraging faculty to participate in recruitment. VCEM Hagg reiterated Senate Chair Mitchell's message, encouraging faculty to participate in the annual Bobcat Day event. A Divisional Council member asked about resources for faculty to make Bobcat Day tables more engaging. VCEM Hagg suggested speaking with Amy Lozano-Smith in Marketing & Communications. He added that one of his summer projects is to reimagine UC Merced's tabling at recruitment events to make them more engaging.

Questions were raised regarding the impact of federal funding issues on faculty. It was noted that funding agency staff are being laid off, and faculty are concerned about the potential loss of program managers. UC Merced is exploring the possibility of offering bridge funding to faculty. The current call for proposals for the Senate faculty research grants program invites applications for seed or bridge funding. However, many faculty are uncertain about whether they will require bridge funding in the future, and the award amounts are relatively small.

Action:

- Executive Director Paul shared Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Marketing (VCEM) Scott Hagg's enrollment projection data with CRE members.
- B. UCSF Memorials to the Regents Update
Chair Yoshimi reported on the outcome of the vote. The two proposed Memorials to the UC Regents were not approved at UC Merced. The results were reported to the Chair of the Assembly and all Senate Divisions.

III. Campus and Systemwide Review Items – Chair Yoshimi**A. [Policy on Assurance of Safety Standards](#) (Campus Wide)**

The proposed policy aims to establish a comprehensive process for identifying and addressing safety deficiencies and non-compliance issues. This policy is intended to promote a safe and supportive environment for all members of the UCM community, including faculty, staff, students, and visitors. It will apply to all academic and research activities, encompassing teaching and research laboratories, fieldwork, shared research support facilities, and machine shops used for academic and research-related purposes.

At the February 21, 2025 meeting, Chair Yoshimi agreed to serve as lead reviewer. His comments are available [here](#).

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, March 21, 2025**.

Chair Yoshimi provided one minor comment to the memo. Members then discussed the lead reviewer's comments and did not provide any additional edits.

Actions:

- Members voted to approve the draft memo with the edit incorporated.
- The CRE Analyst revised the memo accordingly and transmitted the final memo to the Senate Chair.

B. [Business Administration B.A. and Minor Proposal](#) (Campus wide)

The proposal is from SSHA with implementation planned for Fall 2026 for first-year and continuing students, and Fall 2027 for transfer students.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Monday, April 7, 2025**.

CRE members decided to decline to opine.

Action: The CRE Analyst notified the Senate Chair that CRE declined to opine on March 17, 2025.

C. [Accounting B.S. and Minor Proposal](#) (Campus wide)

The proposal is from SSHA with implementation planned for Fall 2026 for first-year and continuing students, and Fall 2028 for transfer students.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Monday, April 7, 2025**.

CRE members decided to decline to opine.

Action: The CRE Analyst notified the Senate Chair that CRE declined to opine on March 17, 2025.

D. [Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report](#) (Systemwide)

In September 2024, UC Provost Katherine Newman and systemwide Academic Senate Chair Steven Cheung established a collaborative Academic Planning Council (APC) workgroup, bringing together faculty and administrators. Tasked with evaluating the existing academic calendars, the workgroup aimed to identify enhancements that will better support the University of California's mission in

teaching, research, and public service. This comprehensive review focuses specifically on the academic calendars of UC's nine undergraduate campuses, excluding UC San Francisco and graduate professional programs.

To guide your review, you are welcome to refer to the document titled "[Qualtrics Instrument to Collect Feedback on Draft APC Report](#)".

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Monday, April 14, 2025**.

CRE members decided to decline to opine.

Action: The CRE Analyst notified the Senate Chair that CRE declined to opine on March 17, 2025.

- E. [Interim Policy on Withdrawal of Consent to Remain on University Property](#) (Campus wide)
The policy outlines implementing procedures of Penal Code Sections 626.4(a) and 626.6 on University Property for the University of California. The policy applies to all campus affiliates (students and employees) and non-affiliates.
- [California Penal Code Section 626.4](#) refers to campus affiliates, includes a 14-day withdraw of consent and allows for a hearing.
 - [California Penal Code Section 626.6](#) refers to non-affiliates, includes a 7-day withdraw of consent and no hearing is afforded.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Monday, April 14, 2025**.

Members discussed the policy and whether it applied to campus affiliates or non-campus affiliates. The CRE Analyst clarified that it applied to both. Executive Director Paul added that the policy was in response to a 2013 memo from the Chancellor.

Actions:

- Chair Yoshimi agreed to serve as lead reviewer.
- The lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by Tuesday, April 1, 2025, and will serve as the basis for CRE's official response to the Senate Chair.

- F. [Proposed Revisions to APM 500 – Recruitment \[Updated\]](#) (Systemwide)
The policy revisions respond to the need to address two new bills signed into state law that add and amend sections 92612.1 and 92612.2 of the California Education Code, effective January 1, 2025 (reference Senate Bill (SB) 791, Postsecondary education: academic and administrative employees: disclosure of sexual harassment, and California Assembly Bill (AB) 810, Postsecondary education: hiring practices: academic, athletic, and administrative positions). The new revisions are indicated using **bold** and underlined text.

Additional background and a summary of the key policy provisions are described in the [memo](#) from Deputy Provost Lee and Interim Vice Provost Haynes.

At the February 24, 2025 CRE meeting, Member Chandra agreed to serve as lead reviewer. Her comments are forthcoming.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Monday, April 14, 2025**.

Members discussed the lead reviewer's preliminary comments. Member Chandra noted that the text uses the word "substantiated" but wondered how the UC defined "substantiated". She also noted that it was unclear who signs the release form if the position that the individual is applying for is their first academic position. Lastly, Member Chandra noted that this section of the APM states that any information collected is confidential, however the level of disclosure is unclear.

Actions:

- The lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by Friday, April 4, 2025, and will serve as the basis for CRE's official response to the Senate Chair.

G. [Presidential Policy on High-Containment Research](#) (Systemwide)

The policy includes the following key provisions:

- All high-containment facilities and research activities at all University-owned and/or operated locations.
- The authority of the UC High-Containment Laboratory Oversight Committee is formalized.
- The required elements of a High-Containment Research Program are identified as the local High-Containment Laboratory Oversight Group, the designated High-Containment Laboratory Director, and the High-Containment Laboratory Plan, which details the management and operational safety plan for each high-containment facility.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, April 25, 2025**.

Members discussed in what terms this policy would apply to UC Merced and if there are any Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) labs at UC Merced. Member Beman explained that various levels of Biosafety Levels and noted that there may be one BSL-3 lab at UC Merced.

Actions:

- Member Petersen agreed to serve as lead reviewer.
- The lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by Friday, April 11, 2025, and will serve as the basis for CRE's official response to the Senate Chair.

IV. [Informational Item: Proposed Amendments to the School of Engineering Bylaws](#) – Chair Yoshimi

The School of Engineering (SOE) is proposing amendments to its Bylaws with the following rationale:

1. Curriculum belongs to all faculty, whether it's undergraduate and graduate.
2. SOE does not have an independent school level curriculum committee for graduate courses; as such, the SOE Executive Committee essentially serves in the role of the school curriculum committee as well.
3. Executive Committee review will allow SOE to address:
 - a. Questions about resources
 - b. Duplication of courses among departments

Communications between SOE and the Senate containing background information can be found, [here](#).

CRE agreed that the amendments to the SOE Bylaws represent a substantive change, as they broaden the scope of the SOE Executive Committee's responsibilities. Therefore, the amendments should first be reviewed and approved by the SOE faculty before being presented for final approval by the CRE.

V. Other Business

[Bylaw and Regulation assignments](#) were distributed to members via email on February 5, 2025.

The CRE Analyst followed up with a reminder via email after the meeting with the proposed assignments for each section.

Actions:

- Members are to review their Bylaw and Regulation assignments and offer any suggested amendments in tracked changes by April 9, 2025.
- The review of the Bylaws and Regulations will be added to the April 21, 2025 CRE agenda.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:44pm.

Attest: Jeff Yoshimi, CRE Chair