

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS (CRE)**MEETING MINUTES****Monday, April 7, 2025****1:00pm – 2:30pm****ZOOM**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Rules and Elections met at 1:00pm on April 7, 2025. Chair Jeff Yoshimi presiding.

I. Review of Bylaws Proposed by the Committee on Faculty Welfare and Academic Freedom (FWAF) for Two Stand-Alone Committees: The Committee on Faculty Welfare (CFW) and The Committee on Academic Freedom (CAF) and Proposed Amendments to Senate Bylaw II. III. Standing Committees on Faculty and Senate Affairs: Their Powers and Duties and Senate Bylaw II. IV. Standing Committees on Research and Educational Affairs: Their Powers and Duties –
Chair Yoshimi

In its [November 1, 2024 memo](#), FWAF proposed that the committee split into two committees, effective AY 2025-2026. The proposal was approved by DivCo on November 18, 2024.

On April 4, 2025, FWAF submitted a [request](#) to CRE to review and endorse the proposed amendments to the current FWAF Bylaws for the new Faculty Welfare Committee and the new proposed Bylaws for the Academic Freedom Committee. Since the addition of a student representative is being considered for the Academic Freedom Committee, this change will automatically result in the need to expand [Title III. Standing Committees on Faculty and Senate Affairs: Their Powers and Duties](#) and [Title IV. Standing Committees on Research and Educational Affairs: Their Powers and Duties of the Bylaws](#).

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws for the CFW are available [here](#).

Proposed Bylaws for the CAF are available [here](#).

Proposed amendments to Senate Bylaw II.III. and II.IV. (Committees) are available [here](#).

CRE members reviewed the proposed amendments to the Bylaws for the CFW and did not have any substantial concerns. Members discussed the possibility of reordering the terms diversity, equity and inclusion in Section 6.B.3. Duties to align with the order of the wording in the Committee for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in the same section. Ultimately, members agreed to leave the order of the wording as is.

CRE members reviewed the proposed amendments to Senate Bylaws II.III. and II.IV. (Committees) and did not have any comments or concerns.

CRE members reviewed the membership within the proposed Bylaws for the CAF. Members were unsure why a student member was included but noted that it may be because graduate students can hold appointments where they teach, such as with TA positions, so there is the possibility for academic freedom to become a concern. It was added that other positions should also have a voice in terms of academic freedom, such as an undergraduate student, and wondered if other titles should be included in the committee's membership. Executive Director Paul clarified that as a Senate committee, the membership needed to be well-balanced between Senate and ex-officio members. Members then

discussed confidentiality and the access that ex-officio members have to committee documents, discussions, and votes. Executive Director Paul clarified that ex-officio members have access to confidential documents once they have been finalized. Furthermore, ex-officio members do not have voting privileges. She added that there are several other Senate committees that have student representation and there have not been any noted concerns. Student members also receive "Guidelines for Participating in Senate Committees" before attending any meetings. Members agreed that it would be beneficial to clarify that ex-officio members were non-voting members in the Bylaws.

CRE members discussed the role of the Protest Oversight Group (POG) representative as outlined in the proposed CAF duties. As noted in the proposed CAF Bylaws, the POG representative would be a CAF member. They would provide regular updates to Divisional Council and would act as a liaison between the POG and the Senate. Members found this portion of the duties vague and recommended that FWAF expand the duties of the POG representative to provide more clarity on the POG representative's role. Executive Director Paul recommended referencing Appendix 1: Membership and Responsibilities of the POG (Page 19) of the [Interim Policy on Expressive Activities and Assembly: Protests, Demonstrations, Non-University Speakers and Signage on Campus and in University Facilities](#) in CRE's response. Specifically, to encourage the administration to revise the Interim Policy on Expressive Activities and Assembly: Protests, Demonstrations, Non-University Speakers and Signage on Campus and in University Facilities and Assembly to ensure it accurately aligns with the CAF Bylaws.

In Section B.2. Duties of the proposed CAF Bylaws, CRE members noted that the language was not consistent with Section A.1. Membership. The restriction of the committee reviewing and making recommendations with respect to any University-related issues that may affect the academic freedom of Senate faculty only is inconsistent with the membership requirements specified in Section A.1. Membership, as the membership currently includes a non-Senate faculty member and a student member.

Action:

- The CRE Analyst will draft a memo containing the committee's comments and send the finalized memo to the FWAF Chair.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:48pm.

Attest: Jeff Yoshimi, CRE Chair