

**COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS (CRE)****Minutes****Monday, January 27, 2025****1:00pm – 2:30pm**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Rules and Elections met at 1:00pm on January 27, 2025. Chair Jeff Yoshimi presiding.

**I. Consent Calendar**

- A. Today's Agenda
- B. [December 4 Meeting Minutes](#)

**Action:**

- The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

**II. Chair's Report – Jeff Yoshimi**

- A. Updates from [Divisional Council](#) Meeting (December 16)  
In response to the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) report on UC Merced, EVC/Provost Dumont acknowledged some factual inaccuracies and lack of nuance in the report. The Chancellor's office is preparing a response with input from various campus departments, and Congressman-Elect Adam Gray is issuing a statement through his office.

Chancellor Muñoz provided an update on capital projects, enrollment and budget reduction.

State legislatures are passing laws to scale back or anesthetize DEI discussions. The Chancellor is committed to reassuring the campus community of UC Merced's DEI efforts. When a Divisional Council member raised concerns about balancing protest oversight with varying viewpoints, the Chancellor emphasized that he will always support free speech, provided it doesn't turn into something criminal, harmful, or destructive. The Chancellor stated that the campus needs to consider how to harvest the best elements of the various conversations in a way that does not negatively impact our campus community.

The search for the next UC President is in progress.

- B. December 16 Meeting of the Division

- C. [Elections Update](#)

Due to an insufficient number of nominations for both the Divisional Council At-Large and Committee on Committees positions, the deadline for the Call for Nominations has been extended. The deadline has been extended to **5:00pm, February 6, 2025**. The Election will now be held on Friday, February 14, 2025.

**Actions:**

- Chair Yoshimi asked CRE members to encourage their colleagues to submit nominations for the Senate Elections.
- Following the meeting, Executive Director Paul reached out to School Executive Committee Chairs to encourage nominations.

D. [UCSF Memorials to the Regents](#) (will be discussed at the January 28 DivCo meeting)

### III. Review of the Merced Division Bylaws and Regulations – Chair Yoshimi

CRE to initiate the review of the UCM Bylaws and Regulations to make sure language is per item B.1. of the [CRE Duties](#), CRE to plan its review of the Bylaws and Regulations.

[Bylaws of the Merced Division](#) (PDF)

[Bylaws of the Merced Division](#) (Word)

[Regulations of the Merced Division](#) (PDF)

[Regulations of the Merced Division](#) (Word)

CRE members will review the UCM Bylaws and Regulations to ensure the policies are clear and consistent. CRE will aim to complete the review by the end of the Spring semester.

#### Actions:

- The CRE Analyst will assign sections equitably between CRE members.
- The Chair will approve the assignments before they are distributed to CRE members.
- This item will be added to the April 21, 2025 CRE agenda for members to review and discuss any proposed amendments to the Bylaws and/or Regulations.

### IV. Campus and Systemwide Review Items – Chair Yoshimi

#### A. [Professional and Continuing Education \(PACE\) Proposals for New Non-Degree Certificate Programs](#) (Campus Wide)

- Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) Certificate
- Professional Certificate in Project Management (PMP)
- Professional Certificate in California Government and Policy (CAPE)

The guiding policy governing the establishment of a non-degree program by Extension is available [here](#).

Additional resources to help guide the Senate’s review may be found at the links below:

[Preparing the UCM Extension Non-Degree Proposal](#)

[University Extension Handbook](#) (beginning on page 3)

PACE hopes to implement these proposals in Spring 2025.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, January 31, 2025**.

CRE members decided to decline to opine.

**Action:** The CRE Analyst notified the Senate Chair that CRE declined to opine on January 27, 2025.

#### B. [Presidential Policy on Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential](#) (Systemwide)

This policy revises the current [UC Dual Use Research of Concern Policy](#) with new and updated provisions, per the White House [communication](#) on dual use research issued May 6, 2024.

Specifically, the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued the [United States Government Policy for Oversight of Dual Use Research of Concern \(DURC\) and Pathogens with](#)

[Enhanced Pandemic Potential \(PEPP\) \(USG Policy\)](#).

The proposed UC Presidential Policy will implement the changes made by the new USG Policy, and it includes the following:

- Adoption of the USG Policy for the institutional review and oversight of research with biological agents or toxins categorized as DURC (Category 1) or PEPP (Category 2).
- The expectation that UC Locations review federally and non-federally funded research for DURC and PEPP. However, it allows UC Locations to develop a different oversight framework for non-federally funded research, provided that it is consistent with the principles of the USG Policy.
- A succinct description of the Compliance Responsibilities for Principal Investigators, UC Location Institutional Contacts for Dual Use Research, and Vice Chancellors for Research (and their equivalents at ANR and LBNL).
- A Procedures Section that provides high-level requirements for compliance with the USG Policy.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Monday, February 3, 2025**.

Member Petersen agreed to serve as lead reviewer via email.

The proposed Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) Policy updates the existing UC DURC Policy to align with recent changes in US government guidelines, which will take effect in May 2025. The policy outlines the type of committee required to oversee and evaluate compliance. At UC Merced, the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) serves as the Institutional Review Entity to ensure compliance with the Policy and oversee periodic assessment.

CRE recommended that the Committee on Committees be charged with appointing Senate members to this committee, if they are serving as Senate representatives.

**Actions:**

- Members unanimously approved the draft memo.
- The CRE Analyst transmitted the final memo to the Senate Chair on January 27, 2025.

C. [Proposed Revisions to APM 675 – Veterinary Medicine Salary Administration](#) (Systemwide)

Summary of proposed revisions:

- Clarification that faculty members paid on the Veterinary Medicine Salary Scale are not permitted to participate in the Health Sciences Compensation Plan ([APM - 670](#)).
- Clarification that participation by faculty members paid on the Veterinary Medicine Salary Scale in the Negotiated Salary Program ([APM - 672](#)) or any future compensation or salary plan is predicated on the requirement that faculty first fully meet the minimum contribution requirements specified in APM - 675-8.d, 675 - 8.e, and 675 - 8.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, February 14, 2025**.

**Actions:**

- Chair Yoshimi agreed to serve as lead reviewer.
- The lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by **Friday, February 7, 2025**, and

will serve as the basis for CRE’s official response to the Senate Chair.

D. [Proposal for a new Non-Degree Program from the UCM Division of Professional and Continuing Education \(PACE\): PK-3 Early Childhood Education \(ECE\) Specialist Instruction Credential](#) (Campus Wide)

The proposal has been reviewed and endorsed by PACE. The WSCUC Substantive Change Specialist has been consulted, and all WSCUC requirements have been met.

The guiding policy governing the establishment of a non-degree program is available [here](#). Per section II.C. of the policy:

C. *What should the Senate look for when asked to review a Non-Degree Program?*

*Input from professional advisory groups will help develop programs for which there is a current demand and cover content and skills that are valued by employers or are of interest to potential students. Non-Degree Programs should represent a content area that has academic credibility. The Academic Senate has the final review. Senate Committee members should ask questions if there are concerns about the credibility of a content area, intended audience, or selection of courses to be included in a non-degree program, or resource impacts on existing (non-Extension) academic programs.*

Additional resources to help guide the Senate’s review may be found at the links below:

- [Preparing the UCM Extension Non-Degree Proposal](#)
- [Professional and Continuing Education \(PACE\) Handbook](#) (beginning on page 3)

The Division of Professional and Continuing Education hopes to implement this proposal in Fall 2025.

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

CRE members decided to decline to opine.

**Action:** The CRE Analyst notified the Senate Chair that CRE declined to opine on January 27, 2025.

E. [Proposed Revisions to APM 036 – Employment](#) (Systemwide)

The policy revisions respond to the need to address a new bill signed into California state law that adds section 66284 to the California Education Code, effective January 1, 2025 (reference [AB 1905](#) “Public postsecondary education: employment: settlements, informal resolutions, and retreat rights”), and requires the University to adopt a written policy regarding official letters of recommendation, among other requirements, as a condition of receiving state funding. The proposed technical revisions are intended to bring the University into compliance with section 66284 of the California Education Code by incorporating the following changes:

- **Revise title of policy to “Academic Employment” to clarify that the policy applies to academic employment and to remove the interim status of the policy**
- **Add section APM - 036-0 e. Official Letters of Recommendation**
  - This section prohibits academic appointees from providing Official Letters of

- Recommendation prior to consulting with the appropriate campus entities to determine if the employee is a respondent in a sexual harassment complaint filed with the University.
- Official Letters of Recommendation is defined in the policy and excludes other forms of recommendations, such as surveys and phone calls, from the definition of Official Letters of Recommendation.
  - Administrator or Supervisor is defined in this section.
- **Add section APM - 036-0 f. Personal References and Personal Letters of Recommendation**
    - This section expressly permits academic appointees to provide references or letters in a personal capacity, and the academic appointee is not required to consult with the appropriate entities to determine if the current or former employee is a respondent in a sexual harassment complaint filed with the University. Examples of other letters of recommendation excluded from the definition of Official Letters of Recommendation are provided.
    - This section provides sample language to be included in personal references and letters of recommendation for employment.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, February 28, 2025**.

**Actions:**

- Member Chandra agreed to serve as lead reviewer.
- The lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by **Friday, February 14, 2025**, and will serve as the basis for CRE's official response to the Senate Chair.

F. [Interim Policy on Consensual Relationships](#) (Campus Wide)

The policy is intended to clarify expectations and support faculty and staff in avoiding professional conflicts of interest related to consensual relationships.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Monday, March 3, 2025**.

**Actions:**

- Vice Chair Petra agreed to serve as lead reviewer.
- The lead reviewer's comments will be circulated via email by **Tuesday, February 18, 2025**, and will serve as the basis for CRE's official response to the Senate Chair.

G. [Proposal for a Dual Degree Program Leading to a Bachelor of Science \(B.S.\) Degree from UCM and Doctor of Medicine Degree from UCSF](#) (Campus Wide)

The proposal packet includes:

- The dual degree proposal itself, which follows Appendix W (pp.83-84) of the September 2023 revision of the [Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs Handbook](#).
- A letter from the Executive Committee of each of UC Merced's three schools. I thank them for their reviews, which have strengthened the proposal.
- The BS/MD Dual Degree Supplement. This document responds to questions and need for additional context raised by the Executive Committees that could not easily be accommodated in the proposal itself because the desired information does not align with the questions in Appendix W.
- Letters from the Interim Dean of the School of Natural Sciences, the University Librarian, and Chief Information Officer.

- The UCM-UCSF MOU.

Comments are due to the Senate Chair by **Friday, March 7, 2025**.

CRE members decided to decline to opine.

**Action:** The CRE Analyst notified the Senate Chair that CRE declined to opine on January 27, 2025.

**V. Other Business**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm.

Attest: Jeff Yoshimi, CRE Chair