

**COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2017-2018**

**TO THE MERCED DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE**

In academic year 2017-2018, the Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) conducted business via teleconference, email, and in-person meetings with respect to its duties as outlined in UCM Senate Bylaw [II.III.7](#). The Divisional Council received regular updates on CRE activities from CRE Chair Lin Tian and, on occasion, Vice Chair Peter Vanderschraaf and Haifeng Huang.

The issues that CRE considered and acted on this year are described as follows:

**GENERAL PROCEDURES**

The Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) issues formal Legislative Rulings to resolve disputes or clear up ambiguities regarding Senate authority, procedures, or jurisdiction. Legislative Rulings are binding unless modified by subsequent legislation or action from the Board of Regents. CRE also prepares and reports to the Division, or to any of its Faculties, such changes and additions to their Bylaws and Regulations proposed by other committees or by individuals; edits and publishes the Manual of the Merced Division at such intervals as it deems expedient; and determines whether a person meets the conditions for membership in the Division.

**ELECTIONS**

- The Call for Nominations for four positions on the Committee on Committees and two At-Large member of the Divisional Council was distributed to the Senate membership on January 17, 2018. Nominating petitions required five signatures including the signature of the candidate showing willingness to serve. Complete forms were due to the Senate on February 16, 2018.
- After issuing a second extension for the Call for Nominations, the Senate received seven of eight required nominations for the COC positions, and five of four required nominations for the At-Large positions. The Division Bylaws require a number of nominees equaled to at least twice the number of open positions (i.e. eight nominations to fill the four COC vacancies). See [Part I. Title III. 5. b.](#) In an effort to address the gap, CRE requested the assistance of the Committee on Committees to identify one additional COC nominee to be included in the ballot for the 2018 Senate Election. In addition, to provide balanced representation of the faculty, CRE requested a nominee be selected from the School of Natural Sciences.

On February 27, 2018, the Committee on Committees provided a nominee for the final COC position.

- ***Online Voting System:*** CRE continued to use Qualtrics. The ballots were distributed to the Senate Division on March 5, 2018 and closed on March 12, 2018.

**FORMAL LEGISLATIVE RULINGS ISSUED**

CRE was asked by Undergraduate Council (UGC) to provide a ruling related to the leadership during the transition from CORE 001 to the new General Education (GE) Program. CRE recommended 1) Based on previous consultation, the Chair of the Division should be temporarily considered the Chair of College One; 2) The College One Executive Committee be established following the process outlined in the College One Bylaws; 3) All consultation and decisions be documented thereby ensuring that processes and procedures have been followed and stored for record keeping.

**REVIEW REQUEST ITEMS FROM DIVCO**

CRE opined on the following campus review items:

After considering Divisional Council's question regarding the process by which the newly approved reserve CAP (RCAP) would be empaneled, CRE recommended establishing an RCAP as a standing subcommittee of CAP and proposed new language for the Honors Section of the UC Merced Division Regulations. The proposed language was circulated for committee comment and, after revision, was approved by the Division on December 18, 2017 by electronic vote. The proposed language was incorporated in Part II. Title 3. 2. of the Bylaws. This new standing committee of CAP will address (1) cases of current or former CAP members (i.e. members who termed off the committee in the preceding academic year), and (2) appeals by faculty members.

Following a request from Undergraduate and Divisional Councils, the Committee on Rules and Elections revised Part II, Section 4: HONORS of the UC Merced Regulations to include standards for awarding High and Highest Honors in the major. The proposed revision was circulated for comment to all standing committees and school executive committees. Divisional Council discussed committee comments on February 20, 2018, and endorsed minor revisions to the proposed language. On March 13, 2018, CRE endorsed the version approved by Divisional Council on February 20, 2018. The revised version was, ultimately, approved at the Spring Meeting of the Division on April 16, 2018.

CRE endorsed the

- Proposal to Establish a Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Academic Unit
- Proposal to Reconstitute the Humanities and World Cultures Bylaw Unit

CRE commented on the

- Proposed Governance Structure for the New General Education (GE) Program
- Proposed Agreement for an Interim Governance Structure for the General Education Program

**REVIEW REQUEST ITEM FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

The Committee on Committee requested a ruling on the eligibility of Directors of ORUs and MRUs to serve on the Committee on Academic Personnel. The request referenced a 2015 Senate decision to bar Directors from serving on Senate committees (appended), and current Bylaw II.1.C. CRE offered the following ruling:

No member of the Division holding an administrative title of Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, Provost, Vice Provost, Dean, or Associate Dean, or titles with equivalent levels of administrative responsibility, may serve as a member of a divisional committee or council (with the exception of membership in the Divisional Assembly), or as a Senate representative of the Merced Division to any taskforce, committee, or agency (except in a non-voting, ex officio capacity as provided in these Bylaws). These restrictions apply to Chairs of academic departments or programs, or to titles with equivalent levels of administrative responsibility with respect to service on the Committee on Academic Personnel, the Committee on Privilege and Tenure, and the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation. These restrictions do not apply to other senate committees.

Current Merced bylaws do not prevent Directors of ORU or MRU from serving on committees. According to 2013 Bylaws, 2 ORU or MRU Directors were allowed to serve on the three aforementioned committees. This proposed ruling is from the consideration of conflicts of interest: In cases when the Committee on Committees strongly wants/needs to consider an ORU or MRU Director for service on a Senate committee, with the exception of Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, CoC may do so, while exercising extreme caution to avoid any potential or inherent conflicts of interest.

The following items will be revisited in AY 18-19

- a) Conflict of Interest policy
- b) UC Merced Voting Policies in Academic Personnel Cases

Respectfully submitted,

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Peter Vanderschraaf, Vice Chair (SSHA)

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