

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ELECTIONS

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

To the Merced Division of the Academic Senate:

In academic year 2020-2021, the Committee on Rules and Elections (CRE) conducted business via teleconference, email, and virtual meetings with respect to its duties as outlined in UCM [Senate Bylaw II.III.8](#).

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.

The Chair of CRE also serves as the [Division Secretary/Parliamentarian](#).

The issues that CRE considered and acted on during 2020-2021 are summarized below.

Elections

The first Call for Nominations for four positions on the [Committee on Committees](#) (CoC) and two At-Large members of the [Divisional Council](#) (DivCo) was distributed to Senate members on November 18, 2020.

Complete forms were due to the Senate Office on December 2, 2020. In the absence of a sufficient number of nominations, the Call was extended to December 16, 2020. Following the extension, the Senate Office received five nominations for the Committee on Committees and two for the At-Large Divisional Council memberships. Per Division [Bylaw I.III.5.B](#):

“Before February 1 each year, the Secretary/Parliamentarian will initiate the election of the Divisional Representatives. Election of Divisional Representatives will be by ballot in accordance with Bylaw Part I. Title V. 5. If the total number of nominations received is fewer than the number of positions to be filled, plus one, the Committee on Committees will make nominations, for the number of positions to be filled, plus one (Am 7 May 20)”

Accordingly, CRE requested that the Committee on Committees make a nomination to fill the number of positions to be filled, plus one, for the Divisional Council, At-Large memberships.

The Election ballots were distributed on January 12, 2021. The ballot closed on January 19, 2021. The Bylaws state that: “Candidates receiving votes on at least 35% of the ballots cast are to be declared elected. If more candidates receive votes on at least 35% of the valid ballots cast than there are vacancies to be filled, those having the highest percentage will be declared elected. If fewer candidates receive votes on at least 35% of the valid ballots cast than there are vacancies, a second mail ballot must be taken. It must list the nominees not elected but receiving the highest percentage on the first ballot, but not to exceed twice the number of remaining vacancies. Those receiving the highest percentage on the second ballot are to be declared elected for such vacancies as exist. A tie for the last vacancy is broken by lot.”

Results [were announced](#) on January 19, 2021.

CRE Review and Amendments of UCM Bylaws and Regulations

One of CRE’s priorities established during the 2019-2020 Governance Retreat was to initiate a wholesale review and revision of the Bylaws. Consistent with historical processes, prior to making any changes to the Bylaws, CRE invited Senate Committee Chairs to review their respective Committee Bylaws. CRE collected the Committees’ feedback in March 2020. Work continued in AY 20-21 with a particular focus on amendments to the Bylaws that would “intentionally maximize and promote equity, diversity, inclusion; reduce, and eventually eliminate anti-Black racism and other forms of racism and inequities.” CRE also considered a Diversity Preamble to the Bylaws and concluded in favor of integrating the preamble into the Bylaws Part I. The proposed Bylaw amendments were approved at the Meeting of the Division on May 4, 2021.

CRE also considered the request from the Graduate Council for amendments to Divisional Regulations Part IV (Master's Degree Requirements) Section 1 (Residency Requirement) and 3 (Thesis) A (Membership), as well as Part V (Doctor of Philosophy Requirements) Section 3 (Candidacy Committee) A (Membership) and Section 4 (The Doctoral Committee) B (Membership). CRE endorsed the proposed amendments, which were approved at the Meeting of the Division on May 4, 2021.

Campus and Systemwide Items Reviewed by CRE

- Gallo School of Management Pre-proposal
- Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 544
- Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 630
- Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw 336.F.8
- Systemwide Senate Regulation 610
- Systemwide Review of Proposed Revision of Senate Bylaw 336.F.3
- Chemistry and Chemical Biology Department Name Change to Chemistry and Biochemistry.
- Department of Literature and Languages Name Change to Literature, Languages, and Cultures
- Retirement of Leave-Related MAPP
- MAPP 016-Discipline

Respectfully submitted,
Christopher Viney, Chair, Merced Division Secretary/Parliamentarian
Anna Song, Vice Chair
Miriam Barlow, Member
Nathan Monroe, Member