

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2013-14

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Responsibilities and Duties

Pursuant to [Senate Bylaw 150](#), in 2013-14 the University Committee on Committees (UCOC) oversaw the appointment of chairs and vice chairs for each of the standing committees of the Assembly; oversaw the nomination of Senate members to serve on ad hoc or ongoing joint Senate-Administration committees and task forces; and authorized the Chair of the Assembly to appoint active members of standing committees to serve on joint committees and task forces subject to UCOC approval. UCOC met once in person, and eight times by video conference. We report on the major issues and accomplishments of the year below.

Appoint Chairs and specified Vice Chairs of the Senate's Standing Committees.

At its October meeting UCOC appointed members to serve as committee liaisons to each standing committee. The liaison was tasked with gathering information from the chair, vice chair, and, where appropriate, members and committee staff on the committee's effectiveness in the current year. The liaison recommended one or more individuals to be considered for service as chair and, where required, vice chair of his/her designated committees for 2014-15. The committee reviewed these recommendations at its April meeting. Appointments to all but three positions have been confirmed – the UCORP vice chair, the UCCC chair, and the UCCC vice chair.¹

Appoint members of Senate committees, subcommittees, or task forces that report to the Assembly.

The ten divisional Committees on Committees nominated divisional representatives to the standing committees. Subsequently, UCOC appointed members for two-year terms, and appointment letters, which specify the term of appointment and describe the committee's charge, have been issued. UCOC added two new at-large members to ACSCANR, re-appointed two ACSCOLI members, and appointed two new members to the Editorial Committee.

Appoint Senate Representatives to Ad Hoc and Joint Senate-Administrative Bodies.

Where appropriate, UCOC asked the standing committees of the Assembly to identify current committee members to serve on ad hoc and joint bodies whose charge(s) matched or over-lapped those of the respective committees. In that spirit, UCOC nominated, appointed, or confirmed representatives to serve on a number of joint Administration-Senate task forces and other groups. These included the UCEAP Governing Committee, the UCI Chancellor Search Advisory Committee, the UCSF Chancellor Search Advisory Committee, the President's Global Climate Council, and the System-wide Sustainability Steering Committee.

Oliver Johnson Award

UCOC nominated Joel Dimsdale (UCSD) and Kathleen Komar (UCLA) for the Oliver Johnson award. Both nominations have distinguished academic careers with a long history of substantial Senate service. Academic Council subsequently awarded both nominations the Oliver Johnson award.

¹ See below. UCOC revised UCCC's bylaws, changing the committee's name to the "University Committee on Academic Computing and Communications" (UCACC). This bylaw revision will be submitted to Academic Assembly for its fall 2014 meeting. For this reason, the appointment of the UCCC chair and vice chair was delayed.

Letter on Adequate Timelines for Presidential Nominations

In April, UCOC sent a letter Academic Council Chair Bill Jacob requesting that he discuss with President Napolitano appropriate timelines when asking UCOC for nominations for important Presidential and systemwide task forces and special committees. This letter was motivated by a number of requests that gave the committee insufficient time to thoroughly search and identify Senate members who had the appropriate expertise, background, availability to serve on these special committees. Specifically, UCOC asked for a six-week minimum turnaround time to complete its work. While the President did not honor UCOC's request, the letter lays out important considerations when making these nominations:

1. Requests must be considered by the systemwide Academic Senate leadership to determine whether to name representatives directly from standing committees or to cast a broader net;
2. Requests requiring a broader net are referred to UCOC;
3. UCOC issues requests to campus COCs for local consideration; campus committees seek out the most appropriate candidates from a wide range of individuals who are locally known and respected but may not be known at the systemwide level and determine whether they are willing to accept the proposed appointment;
4. Divisional Chairs of COC report back to UCOC with recommendations and confirmation that the recommended individuals are available; and
5. UCOC considers the resulting pool and makes final recommendations.

Bylaw 155 Amendment: University Committee on Computing and Communications

UCOC proposed sweeping changes to Bylaw 155, which governs the University Committee on Computing and Communications; these amendments were prompted by changes in the technology environment, a lack of proactive engagement by UCCC, and low member meeting attendance. In spring 2012, UCOC endorsed an Academic Council recommendation to disband UCCC. However, the Assembly of the Academic Senate decided against dissolving it, voting instead to refer it back to Council with instructions to "consider the formation of an information technology committee as an alternative to UCCC." The amendments to Bylaw 155 therefore represent the fulfillment of Assembly's instructions. First and foremost, UCOC changed the name of the committee to the University Committee on Academic Computing and Communications" (UCACC), which enlarges its charge to include consultation with the Provost and Executive Vice President, and not only the President. Most importantly, the charge moves this committee from an era when super computers were the norm on university campuses, thereby refocuses it away from narrow technology issues and directly into all aspects of academic computing and communication. As such, this committee would be charged with representing the Senate in all matters related to the uses and impact of academic computing and communications technology - including, but not limited to, online education, computing infrastructure, security, privacy, analytics, and intellectual property as they pertain to the University's academic mission. Membership on this committee could be drawn from a number of sources, but representatives must come from a Divisional standing committee with jurisdiction over related matters. Finally, the chairs of the Committee on Libraries and Scholarly Communication (UCOLASC), Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA), and the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) shall serve as ex officio members. This proposed bylaw change will go to the Assembly of the Academic Senate for formal approval at its fall 2014 meeting.

Bylaw 128 Amendment: Vice Chairs

In recent years, the University Committee on Committees (UCOC) has run into difficulties in appointing non-Council vice chairs who are also members of their local corresponding Divisional committees. Bylaw 128.D.2 currently reads “for committees not represented on the Academic Council, with the exception of the University Committee on Committees, the Vice Chair shall be appointed from among the Divisional appointees.” This bylaw has proved problematic for both reasons of timing and principle. With respect to timing, UCOC’s chair and vice chair appointments are made synchronously with local appointments to standing committees. Therefore, it is sometimes difficult to know if a UCOC-appointed vice chair will indeed be a divisional representative for the following year. In recent memory, there have been at least three cases in which this bylaw has caused problems. With respect to principle, it is in the best interest of the Divisions to have a regular rotation of Senate members through their divisional committees to bring in new talent and fresh perspectives. On the other hand, one of UCOC’s principal interests is to develop and maintain effective faculty leaders. As currently written, bylaw 128.D.2 restricts this, given that UCOC is limited to current divisional committee members in selecting vice chairs for non-Council committees. A tangential issue involves the possible conflict when the vice chair must substitute for the chair at a committee meeting while still representing his or her Division. Therefore, it is useful and desired to allow for a vice chair to serve as an at-large member. UCOC subsequently proposes to make all vice chairs at-large members, regardless of whether the committee sits on Academic Council or not. This proposed bylaw change will go to the Assembly of the Academic Senate for formal approval at its fall 2014 meeting.

Respectfully submitted:

Martha Conklin, Chair (UCM)	Mariam Lam (UCR)
Edwina Barvosa, Vice Chair (UCSB)	Farrell Ackerman (UCSD)
Robert Sharf (UCB)	Paul Garcia (UCSF)
James Chalfant (UCD)	Elizabeth Abrams (UCSC)
Vincent Caiozzo (UCI)	William Jacob (Council Chair, ex-officio)
Eleanor Kaufman (UCLA)	Mary Gilly (Council Vice Chair, ex-officio)
Patricia LiWang (UCM)	Todd Giedt (Senate Associate Director/Analyst)