

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES 2010-11 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Pursuant to [Senate Bylaw 150](#), in 2010-11 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 twice in person and communicated regularly through its listserv to conduct its business. We report on the major issues and accomplishments of the year.

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

At its October meeting UCOC appointed a member to serve as a liaison 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 in 2011-12. The committee reviewed these recommendations at its April meeting. Appointments to all required positions have been confirmed.

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 describing the committee's charge, have been issued. The committee was also successful in fully populating the UCFW Health Care Task Force (HCTF). At the time of this writing, UCOC is replacing one member of the HCTF due to additional campus obligations.

Academic Council Special Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources (ACSCANR): Following approval of ACSCANR's charge by Academic Council, UCOC proceeded to nominate three at-large members for this new special committee. UCOC replaced one member who resigned due to his acceptance of a deanship and was therefore ineligible to serve in this capacity per Senate Bylaw 128.D, which prohibits any Senate member from "holding an administrative position higher than department chair."

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 matched or overlapped those of the respective committees. In that spirit, UCOC nominated, appointed, or confirmed representatives as appropriate to serve on a number of joint Administration-Senate task forces and other groups. These included the Educational Fee

Model Committee, C-ID Governing Committee, UCCS Governing Committee, CSU Breadth Working Group, UCEAP Governing Committee, Undergraduate Student Health Insurance (UCSHIP), Accountability Report Advisory Group, UCDC Governance Committee, Rebenching Workgroup, IGETC Standards Review Committee, and the Online Courses Review Panel. For a complete list of nominations, see the supplemental enclosure to this report.

Search committees: UCOC nominated Senate participants for search committees for the Merced Chancellor, Director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Director of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Chancellorial Reviews. UCOC nominated a slate of candidates for the *Irvine Chancellorial Review*. In addition, the committee concluded that five nominations from UCOC are not sufficient to complete the process. Toward the end of making this process more effective, the charge should be expanded to allow for a larger nomination slate of seven to ten nominations. There should also be a disciplinary breadth in the nomination slate. A letter to this effect was sent to Council Chair Simmons.

Challenges: In fulfilling its responsibilities, UCOC was challenged by the volume and ad hoc timing of requests. UCOC continues to support a recommendation made by past chairs that it is far better to bundle requests for Senate nominations on predictable timelines, rather than repeatedly attempting to mobilize members from the ten divisions for one-off tasks. UCOC remains concerned that the proliferation of ad hoc and joint committees carries at least the potential to reduce the effectiveness of the Senate's standing committees in shared governance. Finally, the committee notes that finding Senate members to serve as standing committee chairs, vice chairs, and even members is becoming increasingly difficult, given expanding teaching loads and administrative burdens being placed on UC faculty.

Future Issues: In the coming academic year, UCOC will face a number of issues beyond the usual challenges of appointing standing committee chairs, vice chairs, and Senate representatives to joint Senate-Administrative task forces and work groups. One of these issues is the consolidation and/or expansion of standing committees or special committees of Academic Council. As one example, ACSCANR was created by Academic Council earlier this year. UCOC discussed this issue at its April meeting, and agreed that UCOC can definitely advise on the health of certain committees, but it should not have any role in establishing new committees. That said, UCOC should be consulted with respect to the membership. As always, subcommittees could come out of the various standing committees. However, UCOC members opined that there could be a provision for suspension of the bylaws of a committee if it was found that a committee's charge was no longer needed. That said, concern was expressed about the lack of inertia involved with formally "suspending" a committee. With respect to selecting members for Senate-Administration Joint Task Forces, UCOC suggested that requests should go to the relevant standing committee(s) with a copy to the UCOC chair; UCOC should simply review and confirm those nominations where appropriate. In cases of nominations of members not already appointed to standing committees, these nominations must be

absolutely confirmed by UCOC. Finally, the charge of special committees should always require them to report back to a specific Senate body or agency.