

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES 2009-10 ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Pursuant to Senate Bylaw 150, in 2009-10 the University Committee on Committees 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; nominated Senate members to serve on the University Commission on the Future and its working groups; 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.

The Committee on Committees met twice in person and once by teleconference and communicated regularly through a 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 Fall meeting the Committee on Committees appointed a member to serve as 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 2010-11. The committee reviewed these recommendations at its Spring meeting. Appointments to all required positions have been confirmed as of the date of this writing with the exception of the vice chair of UCOLASC.

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, although some nominations remain outstanding as of this writing, and the UCFW Health Care Task Force has not been fully populated. The University Committee on Committees appointed members for two-year terms, and the Chair issued letters of appointment specifying the term of appointment and describing the committee's charge.

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

Commission on the Future: The University Committee on Committees responded throughout the year to requests to name Senate representatives to serve on ad hoc and joint Senate-Administration committees and task forces. Response to the largest such request, nomination of Senate members to serve on the Working Groups of the Commission on the Future, was already underway when Committee members took up their duties on September 1. The Committee identified over 40 qualified individuals. However, there was some confusion surrounding the process for appointing members of the Working Groups, since a number of Senate members who were not identified by UCOC were invited to serve and many of those who were so identified were not. UCOC expressed its concern about this process to the Senate Chair.

Administration-Senate committees: 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. UCOC used lists generated by this process, together with lists of previous members of those committees to nominate Senate members to serve on academic advisory committees and governing bodies for the reconfigured Education Abroad Program, Sacramento Center, UCDC, and the pilot project on online courses. In consultation with the relevant standing committees, UCOC nominated or approved Senate participants in the newly established Security Awareness Working Group; Privacy and Security Steering Committee. UCOC also identified Senate representatives to serve on an intersegmental task force on transfer; the Committee on Student Mental Health; the Academic Planning Council; the Accountability Advisory Group; and the Committee on Code of Conduct for Trademark Licensing.

Ad hoc task forces: In consultation with UCPB, UCFW, and UCAP, UCOC nominated representatives to serve on a joint Administration-Senate task force to consider alternative forms of compensation for faculty modeled on the Health Sciences Compensation Plan. In consultation with CCGA, UCOC nominated a representative to serve on the committee to design a Graduate Student Health Insurance Program.

Search & review committees: UCOC nominated Senate participants for search committees for director of UC Press, executive director of EAP, and director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. UCOC also nominated at-large Senate participants for confidential quinquennial review committees for the Chancellors at Berkeley, San Diego, and Santa Barbara.

Oliver Johnson Award: UCOC solicited nominations from all ten divisions for the biannual Oliver Johnson Award for Senate service. After careful deliberation, the committee forwarded the names of two finalists to the Academic Council, which selected UCSC Chancellor and former Senate chair George Blumenthal as the 2010 recipient.

Inquiry to UCR&J: The Committee noted the difficulty in identifying appropriate members of the University Committee on Rules & Jurisdiction under the provisions of Senate Bylaw 205.A, which requires that two members be chairs of divisional committees on rules and jurisdiction and three members be at large and asked UCR&J for an informal opinion as to whether “Bylaw 205.A should be amended by, for example, modifying the prescription for the composition of UCR&J to specify “not more than” or “not less than” rather than absolute numbers.” UCR&J declined to opine as a body but forwarded the opinions of individual members. See attachment.

Challenges: In fulfilling its responsibilities, UCOC was challenged by the volume and ad hoc timing of requests. Rather than repeatedly attempting to mobilize members distributed throughout the ten divisions for repeated one-off tasks, it would be more effective to “bundle” requests on predictable timelines. The Committee did not explore whether it is possible to synchronize a regular cycle of nominations with the Administration’s needs to have Senate representation for multiple bodies. As the year

progressed, UCOC also experienced increasing reluctance among Senate members to accept appointments, an apparent consequence of the combined effects of furloughs and increased teaching and administrative loads. UCOC also observed 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.