

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Responsibilities and Duties

Pursuant to [Senate Bylaw 150](#), the University Committee on Committees (UCOC) oversees the appointment of chairs and vice chairs for each of the standing committees of the Assembly; oversees the nomination of Senate members to serve on ad hoc or ongoing joint Senate-Administration committees and task forces, and sends letters of appointment to all appointees specifying term of the appointment and committee charge. UCOC met five times in 2020-21. Due to the Covid-10 pandemic, all meetings were held via videoconference. Major issues and accomplishments are reported below.

Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Senate's Standing Committees

While being mindful of balance and representation among campuses, UCOC reviewed and approved chairs and vice chairs for standing committees for 2021-22. Three vice chair positions (BOARS, UCEP and UCACC) will be finalized in the fall.

As proposed last year, UCOC updated its process for choosing its own vice chair. At the winter meeting, the chair and vice chair encouraged current members to self-nominate for the position of vice chair for the coming year. This seemed to work well, and two experienced members expressed interest. The current chair and vice chair spoke to both candidates and an agreement was reached to select one and give committee members a chance to approve via email. This process will be used again next year.

Appointment of members of Standing Committees

The ten divisional Committees on Committees nominated divisional representatives to standing committees and to the Assembly. Subsequently, UCOC issued appointment letters, which specified the term of appointment and the committee's charge.

Appointment of members of Senate committees, subcommittees, or task forces within the systemwide Academic Senate

- Editorial Committee – UCOC appointed four new members.
- Academic Council Special Committee on Lab Issues (ACSCOLI) – Two new members were appointed; one current member was reappointed for a second 3-year term
- University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) Task Force on Agriculture and Natural Resources (TF-ANR)
- UC Entry Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) Task Force

Selection of Senate Representatives to Other Committees

UCOC is responsible for selecting Senate representatives to various groups that are proposed by the President, Provost, or other senior administrators. UCOC nominated or reviewed nominations of representatives to serve on joint administration-Senate task forces, external councils, and other groups in 2020-21. These included:

- Knowledge Transfer Advisory Committee (KTAC)
- UC National Center for Free Speech and Civic Engagement Academic Advisory Board

- California Air Resources Board (CARB) Scientific Review Panel – Three subject matter experts in each of three categories: 1) atmospheric science, 2) oncology, and 3) pathology
- UC Observatories Executive Director Search Committee
- A-G Ethnic Studies Faculty Workgroup

Academic Council Chairs Mid-Career Award

Based on nominations from Divisions, UCOC recommended Tara Javidi (UC San Diego) and Steven Cheung (UC San Francisco) to the Academic Council as recipients of the 2021 Academic Council Chairs Mid-Career Award. The Academic Council subsequently approved both nominations.

Academic Senate Service: Expanding Participation, Diversity, and Issues of Representation

At several meetings, UCOC members shared practices used by their campuses for expanding participation in Senate service, increasing diversity, and building leadership. Campus CoCs employ various techniques such as meeting with department chairs, interviewing committee chairs, and matching junior faculty members with more senior colleagues. UCOC members recognize that faculty from underrepresented groups, especially women, are often over-tapped and over committed already, and need to be cautious about over-committing their time.

The committee briefly talked about monetary or other forms of compensation for engaging in Senate service. There is generally no direct payment for Senate service, but some schools or departments may offer course release or other indirect compensation. There is no standard across campuses for committee service.

In April, Academic Council Chair Mary Gauvain, brought to UCOC her interest in ensuring that faculty who are appointed to administrative or advisory committees to represent the Academic Senate understand their role. It has become apparent that not all Senate representatives are clear about whether they represent their campus, their discipline, or another constituency. UCOC will work on making this representation role clearer in its materials.

Other UCOC Discussions

- Staff members from the UCOP Office of Research and Innovation joined the December UCOC meeting to explain UC's legal requirement to nominate a minimum number of representatives to state-level review panels that the state relies on for expertise. This is part of UC's service to the state.
- UCOC received regular updates from the Academic Senate chair and vice chair about important issues facing the faculty and the university.

Respectfully submitted:

Cynthia Passmore, UCOC Chair
 Jennifer Nájera, UCOC Vice Chair
 Ula Taylor (UCB)
 Niels Gronbech-Jensen (UCD)
 George Tita (UCI)
 Chris Colwell (UCLA)
 Wei-Chun Chin (UCM)

Jonathan Eacott (UCR)
Elsa Cleland (UCSD)
Thomas Chi (UCSF)
Lisa Hajjar (UCSB)
Micah Perks (UCSC)
Mary Gauvain, (Council Chair, ex-officio)
Robert Horwitz (Council Vice Chair, ex-officio)
Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)