



**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION (UCRJ)
ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Pursuant to [Senate Bylaw 205](#), and [Senate Bylaw 206](#), the University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction (UCRJ) is charged with:

- Examining and supervising all changes and additions to Senate bylaws and regulations, both substantive and editorial;
- Examining divisional legislation that may affect systemwide bylaws and regulations;
- Preparing and reporting to the Assembly or divisions such changes and additions to the bylaws and regulations as may seem to it advisable;
- Making non-substantive editorial and conforming revisions in the bylaws and regulations, including adjustments to numbering, headings, cross-references, organizational titles, stylistic elements, and similar items;
- Issuing Legislative Rulings interpreting the Code of the Senate upon request from Senate leaders, following consultation with the Academic Council;
- Deciding challenges to actions of University committees alleged to conflict with Senate rules, and hearing appeals from divisional rulings on such matters;
- Responding to informal requests from Senate members for interpretations or guidance regarding the Code, with all such correspondence filed with the Secretary/Parliamentarian and summarized in this annual report.
- Supervising inclusion of Assembly-approved variances to Senate Regulations and ensuring divisional manuals conform with Senate Bylaws.

During the 2024-25 academic year, UCRJ met three times by videoconference and conducted other business via email. Major actions are summarized below.

LEGISLATIVE RULINGS

None.

ADVICE TO SENATE CHAIR

- **Variance Requirement for Academic Notice Terminology:** UCRJ considered whether a division requires a variance to Senate Regulations [900](#) and [902](#) to use a term other than “academic notice” for graduate students who fail to meet minimum academic progress standards. The Committee encouraged the Assembly to review and revise SR 902 and/or SR 904 to clarify whether “academic notice” applies to both undergraduate and graduate students.
- **Assembly Resolution Language:** UCRJ reviewed a procedural question about the use of the word “demand” in a petitioned Assembly resolution and concluded that while strong, it does not exceed the Senate’s authority under [Regents Bylaw 40.1](#) or render the resolution out of order.
- **Divisional Voting Rights:** UCRJ affirmed that divisions may vote on any matter of divisional interest. While opinions are conveyed through Assembly representatives, the systemwide

Senate cannot compel divisions to hold votes except through the Memorial process outlined in [Senate Bylaw 90](#).

- **Inclusion of the President on Divisional Listservs:** UCRJ advised that all divisions should include the President of the University, an ex officio member, on all divisional Senate listservs and ensure the President receives notifications about all divisional ballots and relevant Senate activities.
- **Interpretation of Bylaw 90 (Memorials):** UCRJ clarified how a division may “decline to act” on an approved Memorial submitted by another division.

ADVICE TO DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES

- **UCSD R&J (Definition of Residence for Graduate Degrees):** In response to a query from UCSD’s Divisional Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction, UCRJ advised the Assembly to revise [Senate Regulation 610](#) to state explicitly that graduate student residency does not require physical presence and may be fulfilled through online enrollment. UCRJ recommended developing systemwide standards to guide the interpretation of graduate residency requirements.
- **UCD CERJ (No-Confidence Ballot):** UCRJ advised the Davis Committee on Elections, Rules and Jurisdiction that the President, as an ex officio member of all divisions, retains voting rights in divisional ballots and elections. All members, including the President, must have the opportunity to participate in discussions and voting.
- **UCLA R&J (Faculty Search Process and EDI Office Oversight):** UCRJ advised UCLA’s Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction on questions about the role of the Senate and the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in faculty searches. UCRJ affirmed that faculty must play a central role in evaluating and selecting new faculty, including having full access to applicant files and authority in forming shortlists and search committees. Administrative offices may ensure compliance but should not restrict faculty access to applicant files or control search processes, as this undermines the faculty expert role in shared governance.
- **UCM (Committee Chairs and Bylaw 35.C.2):** UCRJ advised that only Senate members may chair Senate committees. While non-Senate faculty may be permitted to serve on committees, they cannot serve as chairs.
- **UCR (Memorial Ballot Procedures):** UCRJ advised that no additional arguments should be circulated in an ad hoc way after voting on a Senate memorial has begun, to ensure fairness. Communications from faculty associations are separate from official Senate messaging, and Senate officers must maintain neutrality and formal tone in official communications.

EVALUATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO SENATE BYLAWS AND REGULATIONS

UCRJ evaluated the following proposed bylaw and regulation changes for consistency with the Code of the Academic Senate:

- Revisions to Senate Bylaw 145 (BOARS)
- Rescission of Senate Bylaw 192 (UCOPE) and Revisions to Senate Bylaw 170 (UCEP)
- Amendment to Senate Regulation 750 (“Math Fellow”)
- Revision to Bylaw 170.B.3 (UCEP’s jurisdiction beyond systemwide academic courses)

VARIANCES

UCRJ evaluated and endorsed the following variances to Senate regulations:

- UCR Variance to Senate Regulation 780
- UCLA Variances to Senate Regulation 780

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Nielsen (UCSC), Chair
Kathleen Montgomery (UCR), Divisional committee chair
Hans-Georg Muller (UCD), Divisional committee chair
Liz Glynn (UCI), Member-At-Large
Karen Messer (UCSD), Member-At-Large

UCRJ Staff: Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director