



**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION (UCRJ)
ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26**

TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:

Pursuant to Senate Bylaws [205](#) and [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 2025-26 academic year, UCRJ met two times by videoconference and conducted other business via email. Major actions are summarized below.

LEGISLATIVE RULINGS

Interpretation of Senate Bylaws 110 and 120: The Senate chair asked UCRJ to consider questions concerning agenda-setting authority for special and emergency Assembly meetings. UCRJ issued a ruling interpreting Senate Bylaws 110 and 120, noting that petitioners may require specified business to be included but may not restrict the agenda exclusively to those items; the Senate chair, in consultation with the Academic Council, may add other properly noticed matters within the Assembly's authority. The ruling was added as Ruling 1.26 to Appendix II of the Manual of the Academic Senate.

Departmental Voting Rights Under Senate Bylaw 55 (UCI): At the UCI Division's request, UCRJ issued a ruling concerning the voting rights of Senate members holding appointments of varying percentages, including joint appointments without salary. UCRJ ruled that neither appointment percentage nor salary status determines departmental voting rights; once a joint appointment is established, the Senate member has voting rights in both the home and host departments, subject to the personnel voting provisions of Bylaws 55.B and 55.C.

ADVICE AND REVIEWS REQUESTED BY THE SENATE CHAIR

- **Senate Chair and Academic Council Authority Regarding Senate Committee Work:** UCRJ interpreted Senate Bylaws 110, 125, and 145 concerning the respective authority of the Senate chair, Academic Council, and BOARS. UCRJ concluded that the chair may request committee consideration of matters within its jurisdiction, while Council may request reports and identify desired deliverables and timelines; however, committees retain discretion over their internal processes, may reconsider prior actions, and cannot be compelled to follow a prescribed process or meet an enforceable deadline.
- **Conversion of Regents Standing Orders to Bylaws:** UCRJ reviewed the proposed conversion of Regents Standing Orders into Regents Bylaws and concurred that it was primarily a technical and organizational change, with no identified inconsistencies with the Senate Code.

ADVICE TO DIVISIONS AND COMMITTEES

Joint Degree Program (CCGA): At CCGA's request, UCRJ reviewed the proposed Joint M.A. Degree Program in Contemporary Philosophy between UCSB and the University of Athens and concluded that its design was inconsistent with Senate Regulation 694.2, which limits off-campus study for an M.A. degree to no more than one-half of the total unit and residence requirements. UCRJ also recommended a broader review of the graduate regulations governing residence, off-campus study, and international joint degree programs to establish clearer standards for such programs.

UCR Query: The UCRJ chair provided informal guidance, rather than a formal committee interpretation, to the Riverside Division Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction concerning a unit bylaw that inadvertently excluded several departments from eligibility for service on an executive committee.

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 Bylaws 195 and 336 (UCPT):** UCRJ advised on terminology, procedural clarity, implementation timelines, and the relationship of the proposed revisions to divisional authority over privilege and tenure processes.
- **Revision to Senate Regulation 904 (CCGA):** UCRJ concurred with CCGA's proposal to add "academic notice" to clarify the terminology governing graduate student academic standing and align it with recent revisions affecting undergraduates.
- **Revisions to Senate Bylaw 192 and Senate Regulations 636 and 761 (UCOPE):** UCRJ found the proposed revisions consistent with the Senate Code, noting that they aligned UCOPE's charge and the Entry Level Writing Requirement provisions with current placement practices.
- **Revision to Senate Bylaw 337:** UCRJ found the proposed revision consistent with the Senate Code.
- **Revisions to Senate Bylaws 334 and 335 (UCPT):** UCRJ reviewed proposed revisions clarifying access to grievance procedures for eligible non-Senate academic appointees and advised on terminology, consistency, and technical drafting.
- **Revisions to Senate Bylaw 140 (UCAADE):** UCRJ endorsed the proposed committee name change and found the revised charge consistent with the Senate Code, while recommending two

clarifications to improve precision and define the committee's scope.

- **Proposed Systemwide Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability:** UCRJ advised that Senate Bylaw 325 would require each division to designate a corresponding committee, noted that Senate Bylaw 128 would also require amendment, and recommended clarifying the proposed committee charge.

VARIANCES

UCRJ evaluated and endorsed the following variances to Senate regulations:

- UCLA variances to Senate Regulations 740, 780, 784, 810, and 900
- UCLA variances to Senate Regulation 900

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Montgomery (UCR), Chair
Jennifer Wagman (UCLA), Divisional Committee Chair
Irfan Kathiriya (UCSF), Divisional Committee Chair
Hans-Georg Müller (UCD), Member-at-Large
Liz Glynn (UCI), Member-at-Large

UCRJ Staff: Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director