

## **Committee on Committees**

March 25, 2014

To: José Wudka, Chair  
Riverside Division

Fr: Mariam Lam, Chair  
Committee on Committees

**Re: Review Bylaw Change to Riverside Division Bylaws Proposed on March 12, 2014 by José Wudka**

Dear José:

Per your request, our committee has reviewed the proposal to change the Riverside Division Bylaws at its March 13, 2014 meeting. As written, the goal of the additional restriction (“Senate members holding administrative positions have administrative reporting obligations that are in conflict with their role as committee chairs or systemwide divisional representatives.”) may be unintendedly too broad and all-inclusive a generalization for this level of further restriction.

For example, the list of divisional “administrative positions” at UC Riverside includes many Institute/Centers/Programs administrative directors in all colleges and schools. To name only a few, Kambiz Vafai is Director of BCOE’s Online Master of Science in Engineering Degree Program, Rene Lysloff is Director of Asian Studies, Georgia Warnke is Director of the Center for Ideas and Society, Mariam Lam is Director of Southeast Asian Studies, Kimberly Hammond is Director of the Natural Reserve System, Natasha Raikhel is Director of UCR’s Institute for Integrative Genome Biology. Restricting such administrative position holders from Chairing or Vice-Chairing our current Senate Committees will require immediate re-appointments to many of our current Senate Chairships and will most likely unduly further limit the Committee on Committees’ future appointments.

We do not believe the author of the bylaw change proposal intended such strict restriction. Therefore, we suggest revision of the Bylaw Change proposal to include more specific definitions of what kinds of administrative positions will be barred from Senate leadership positions, such as the ranks of Dean, Associate Dean, and/or Department Chair, etc., as well as more specific Senate Committees to which such restriction might apply, such as CAP, Academic Freedom, etc.

We recommend modeling the divisional bylaw change after the existing systemwide restrictions found in the UC Systemwide Bylaws at Bylaw number 128.H.:

<http://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/manual/blpart2.html#bl128>

This wording currently reads, “Members holding an administrative position higher than department chair may not serve as members of Assembly committees. However, Department Chairs may serve on Assembly Committees, with the exception of the Committee on Academic Personnel, the Committee on Academic Freedom and the University Committee on Privilege and Tenure.”

We hope editing the proposal language to similarly specific language will allow the divisional Bylaw Change proposal to accomplish its goal of avoiding conflicts of interest, while at the same time not placing additional strain on the work of the Committee on Committees.

Do let us know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mariam Lam", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Mariam Lam, Chair  
Committee on Committees