

**Committee on Committees**

January 23, 2015

To: Jose Wudka, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Robert Clare, Chair  
Committee on Committees



**Re: Proposal for the Realignment of Academic Units**

The Committee on Committees met on January 22, 2015 with one of its agenda items being the discussion of the document "Proposal for the Realignment of Academic Units at the University of California, Riverside" submitted by the Provost/EVC Paul D'Anieri.

First of all, it was noted that the proposal shows a potential misunderstanding of the Senate and its role in shared governance. There is no "Executive Committee," but rather an "Executive Council". And the powers of the Executive Council are limited and do not include approval or disapproval (whether binding or not) of the proposal. That can only come through the Division. The Committee on Committees appreciates that the Chair of the Division has asked all Senate members to comment. Our comments come from both a Committee on Committees perspective as well as that of individual Senate members.

One of the primary concerns of the Committee was the use of resources. This realignment will put a significant load on the Academic Senate staff and all of the Senate Committees, as essentially all bylaws will have to be reviewed and modified. Some members were concerned about potential implications for representation on Senate Committees as bylaws are rewritten.

Another major concern was that this proposal does not address at all the flaws of the current system, which include divisional representation for multidisciplinary fields that cross current divisions. There are also frictions between the divisions such as those between the physical and agricultural sciences, or between the social sciences and humanities.

One member suggested that perhaps a better use of resources could be improving the professional schools. There were also concerns that one result of the realignment would be an increase in the both the number and salary of administrators.

Finally, the Committee felt that one of the issues seen across both colleges was a lack of budgetary authority within each division and that the proposal, as it stands, explicitly states that

nothing would change with that. Given that this is one of the major sources of friction between divisions, it would appear that little would change with this proposal.

At the end of the discussion, the Committee voted on the issue. No one was in favor of the proposal in its current form. We recorded 4 votes for "Yes, with provisions" and 4 votes for "No in any form".