COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION
REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
NOVEMBER 21, 2002

Proposed Change in Bylaw 8.3.1, 8.3.2, 8.3.3, 8.3.4

To be adopted:

PRESENT:

8.3 Academic Freedom

8.3.1 This committee consists of five members of the Division, including, ex officio the Chairs of the Committee on Privilege and Tenure and the Committee on Faculty Welfare. (Ed 30 Jun 91)

8.3.2 This committee shall study any conditions within or without the University which, in the judgment of the committee, may affect the academic freedom of the University, with particular reference to the acceptance of positions and resignations from positions in the University and to the reputation of the University and of individual members of its faculty, and report thereon to the Division.

PROPOSED:

8.3 Academic Freedom

8.3.1 The committee consists of five members of the Division (including, ex officio, the Chairs of the Committee on Privilege and Tenure and the Committee on Faculty Welfare). (Ed 30 Jun 91)

8.3.2 The Committee shall meet at least twice a year, and as needed.

8.3.3 The committee shall be alert to any conditions within or without the University that, in the judgment of the committee, may adversely affect the freedom of the academic community at large, its faculty, students, librarians, and guests. The committee shall report any such conditions to the Division. It is understood that academic freedom includes, but is not necessarily limited to, free inquiry and exchange of ideas, the rights to present controversial material relevant to a course of instruction, to publish or disseminate controversial material or information, and to perform research in controversial areas. It is also understood that academic freedom is to be conjoined with academic responsibility; it is to be exercised in accordance with standards appropriate to the relevant scholarly disciplines.

8.3.4 Specific duties of the committee include:

A. To evaluate, as needed, current institutional policies (such as APM) as they might relate to academic freedom and propose revisions to the Division or to the Systemwide Committee.

B. To evaluate, as needed, current procedures for dealing with grievances concerning academic freedom and propose revisions to the Division.

C. To consider issues of academic freedom brought before the committee by individuals or other UC Committees and to report findings and recommendations to the Division or to other committees for further action.

D. To assist in the education of the academic
community regarding the rights and responsibilities relating to academic freedom. To this end, the committee shall communicate a statement of its duties and mission to the general UCR academic community.

Justification:

8.3.1 Grammatical change.

8.3.2 It is important to have a definite minimal number of meetings to review activities of the system wide AFC committee.

8.3.3 The committee is not in a position to initiate reviews, but rather will respond to any potentially adverse conditions that are called to its attention.

It seemed to the committee wiser not to try to enumerate the constituents of the academic community.

We felt a characterization of academic freedom would be useful. This characterization closely follows that of the UCLA committee.

8.3.4 The committee wanted to specify some of its duties so that the university community could have a better sense of its function

Approved by the Committee on Academic Freedom: 3/19/2002