COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION
REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
MAY 19, 2009

Proposed change in Bylaw 8.23
Undergraduate Council

To be adopted:

PRESENT:

8.23 Undergraduate Council (En 5 Jun 75)

8.23.1 The Council consists of seven members of the Division, one of whom shall be the Chair and the Divisional representative to the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools; one undergraduate student representative; and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, ex officio (Am 5 Nov 87)(Am 18 Nov 03)

8.23.2 It is the duty of the Undergraduate Council to:

8.23.2.1 Advise the Division and the administration on matters having to do with admissions and enrollment on the Riverside campus. These matters, which are the primary concern of the Undergraduate Council, include but are not limited to: recruitment and outreach; special action admissions; articulation with community colleges; and relations with high schools and community colleges (Am 5 Nov 87)

8.23.2.2 Serve as the normal mechanism of liaison between the Division, the athletic director, and the administration on matters relating to athletic policy. (Am 5 Nov 87)

PROPOSED:

8.23 Undergraduate Admissions Committee

8.12.1 The Committee consists of seven members of the Division, one of whom shall be the Chair and the Divisional representative to the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools; one undergraduate student representative, who shall not have the right to vote; and the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, ex officio or his/her designee.

8.23.2 It is the duty of the Undergraduate Admissions Committee to:

8.23.2.1 Advise the Division and the administration on matters having to do with admissions and enrollment on the Riverside campus. These matters, which are the primary concern of the Undergraduate Admissions Committee, include but are not limited to: recruitment and outreach; special action admissions; articulation with community colleges; and relations with high schools and community colleges. (Am 5 Nov 87)

8.23.2.3 At its discretion, make recommendations relating to
undergraduate education and student life. (Am 5 Nov 87)

Justification:
1) Through the cooperative efforts of the Admissions Director and Undergraduate Council, the Riverside campus has recently been advanced from “non-selective” to “minimally-selective” status, with regard to its undergraduate admissions. It is in Senate members’ best interests that we become a fully-selective campus and there are reasons to believe that this could be realized soon: competition for admission is increasing across the UC system in response to reduced enrolment targets; the new Entitled-to-Review (ETR) admission pathway will replace the sharp eligibility cut-off with a broader band of applications, within which we will select on the basis of achievement in the context of opportunity; and our move to comprehensive review of applicants’ files that will be necessary for ETR is about to be accelerated by a systemwide introduction of shared review. In the UC system, the Academic Senates determine and evaluate the local criteria for admission and the process of comprehensive review. As long as Riverside was a non-selective campus, this component of shared governance was almost moot and our Senate did not need to develop the habits of assertive and proactive engagement in the admissions process that characterize our sibling campuses.

2) UCR is the only UC campus that has representation on the systemwide Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) but does not have a dedicated Admissions Committee, Board, or Subcommittee. This is a disadvantage with regard to the depth of experience and local analysis that our Division can bring to the Board’s deliberations.

3) It is not enough that Undergraduate Council continue to review systemwide proposals and respond to requests to clarify and modify our admissions criteria. We need more time for systematic monitoring of admissions trends here and at the institutions with which we compete for students. This level of activity is not sustainable in those periods when Undergraduate Council is requested to consider matters unrelated to admissions; recent examples include general education requirements and undergraduate advising. These matters of educational policy and student life are typically also handled by the Committees on Educational Policy and Preparatory Education. A duplication of effort results, sometimes leading to the need for joint meetings of the Council and the Preparatory Education committees or their Chairs. The BOARS representative is Chair of Undergraduate Council and an ex-officio member of the Preparatory Education Committee; thus, information flows more efficiently between those committees, but it also means that the BOARS representative can vote twice on the same issues. Matters of educational
policy and student life come to Undergraduate Council as a result of addition 8.23.2.3 to Council’s mandate. We propose to remove that item and signal the return to the committee’s primary purpose by changing its name. We believe it is better that committees develop expertise in well-defined and separate areas.

4) In the past 4 years or longer, no business connected with the Athletic Department has come before the Undergraduate Council. There is a Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) outside of the Undergraduate Council who serves as liaison between the Division and the Athletic Director. Such activities would be a duplication of the charge to the FAR and/or the special review committee which review the student petitions from the Athletic Department for admission. Therefore, we are proposing deleting 8.23.2.2.2.

5) Experience on sibling campuses suggests that a dedicated Admissions Committee will successfully attract the active participation of Senate members with research expertise in K-12 education, academic testing, and college admissions practices. The committee work is not a distraction from their research.

6) The change from Undergraduate Council to Admissions Committee was part of the broader restructuring proposed last year for the Academic Senate committees. Although that proposal was not adopted as a whole, some of its parts had considerable merit and can be implemented individually. Transforming Undergraduate Council into a dedicated Admissions Committee is one such change.

7) For several years, and with the approval of the Council, it has been the practice of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs to delegate Undergraduate Council attendance to the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management. We propose to formalize this recognition of the committee’s primary focus. The committee is pleased to record that we benefit considerably from the active participation of the Assistant Vice Chancellor and the Admissions Director, who we invite as a guest consultant to all meetings. The Vice Chancellor is a welcome occasional guest. This pattern of members, ex-officio members, guest consultants, and non-voting student delegates reflects the BOARS structure.

Approved by Undergraduate Council: April 15, 2009

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction finds the wording consistent with the code of the Academic Senate: April 23, 2009

Endorsed by the Executive Council: April 27, 2009