

Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction, and Elections
Annual Report, 2003-04

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections (RJE) met formally three times during the year, primarily to evaluate legislation, resolutions and other items submitted for inclusion in the agendas of regular meetings of the Santa Cruz Division, to provide editorial advice to the proposers about the wording of their proposals, and to provide advice about possible legal and legislative implications of proposals, should they be approved by the Division. Other requests for information or informal advice from the Executive Committee, Senate Officers, committee chairs, and individual senators of items were dealt with mainly by email or telephone conversations.

During Fall 2003, the most important issue was advising the Chair of the Graduate Council about the legality of temporary procedures for appointing and promoting faculty in the Department of Mathematics that would be consistent with divisional and systemwide Senate bylaws and regulations and the Regents' Standing Orders, and would allow rapid reinstatement of admissions to the mathematics Ph.D. program. The situation was not foreseen in the Standing Orders, bylaws and regulations; precedents at UCSC and on other campuses were poorly documented; and many ramifications touched on such complex areas as shared governance and academic freedom. Therefore a definitive opinion on the proposed procedures probably can only be reached at systemwide level, so RJE limited itself to providing informal opinions that emphasized the spirit of the most relevant principles, and urged wide consultation with Committee on Academic Personnel and other Senate committees.

RJE also considered the situation of a recently elected member of the Committee on Committees (COC) who was appointed as a department chair before the new COC took office. RJE agreed that a department chair serving on COC is not in conflict with SCB 13.4.2. RJE also agreed that a special election is not required to fill a COC vacancy created by a resignation before the next COC takes office on 1 September, because SCB 13.14.1 clearly calls for all COC vacancies to be filled by the annual election in winter quarter. Instead, RJE agreed that should a member resign before taking office, COC may nominate any person to fill the slot (subject to approval at next Senate meeting), including the candidate receiving the next highest vote in the COC election.

The members of RJE would particularly like thank Senate staffers Catherine Fong and Susanna Wrangell for their efficient and cheerful support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON RULES, JURISDICTION AND ELECTIONS

David Belanger (W,S)

David Brundage

Michael Dine (F)

Donald Wittman

Donald Potts (Chair)

March 17, 2005