To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

The Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections (RJ&E) is charged with providing clarification and interpretation in regard to Senate legislation and Divisional procedures. During the past year, the Committee conducted all of its deliberations via email.

Undergraduate Council Ruling

In July of 2008, the Undergraduate Council (UgC) submitted a request to formalize the longstanding practice of requiring departments to designate some form of prerequisite for each of their upper-division courses. Upon reviewing this request, some RJ&E members questioned the parameters of this practice. Upon receiving a thorough explanation from the UgC in October 2008, RJ&E endorsed the Council's request, and the following text was added to Appendix III of the Senate Manual as a Ruling of the Undergraduate Council:

Upper-Division Course Prerequisites. If a course has been designated as upper-division (i.e., numbered from 100 to 199), it must have one or more prerequisites. Prerequisites may include preparatory courses (with a passing grade or higher), consent of instructor or department, class level restrictions, major limitations, or minimum test scores.

Revision of Senate Regulation 150

In February 2009 the Undergraduate Council approved a request from the College of Engineering Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) to increase the number of per-quarter units that can be completed by students in the College of Engineering from 18 to 21. Since this action required revision of Senate Regulation 150, the Council consulted RJ&E prior to recommending the necessary revision to the Faculty Legislature. RJ&E endorsed the proposed change.

Review of Draft Documents Related to Furloughs and Salary Cuts

RJ&E was called upon to review two documents related to furloughs and salary cuts, which were also under consideration by the University Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction (UCR&J). The first was a proposed amendment to Standing Order of the Regents 100.4 – Duties of the President, which if adopted would provide a framework in which the UC President could ask The Regents to declare a state of financial emergency and grant specified authority to implement furloughs or pay cuts across the UC system. The second document was a set of guidelines for implementing such measures.

Some members expressed that they did not feel qualified to assess the overall soundness of the emergency plan, but nonetheless offered comments about consultation, transparency, timing, and implications for delivery of instruction. One member asserted that he would like to see in the plan an assurance that, when the economic crisis is over and state finances return to an even keel, none of the cutbacks in salary will be made permanent. He stated emphatically, “Emergency measures must mean, above all, temporary measures.”

Chair Binion relayed members’ comments to UCR&J, which ultimately responded to the Academic Council regarding this issue.

Election of Committee on Committee Members

During the June 2009 meeting of the Faculty Legislature, RJ&E requested confirmation of a slate of candidates elected for membership on UCSB’s Committee on Committees for the 2009-10
Committee Chair Gayle Binion reported on the voting process that took place via electronic ballot prior to the meeting. Two candidates were nominated for each of three open positions. One position was automatically filled as a result one nominee’s decision to decline the nomination. For each of the other two positions, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes was appointed. The Faculty Legislature confirmed these results.

Committee Members:
Gayle Binion, Chair
Eugene Johnsen
Didier Maleuvre
Ronald Rice

Staff Advisor: Debra Blake