

## **COMMITTEE ON RULES, JURISDICTION AND ELECTIONS ANNUAL REPORT 2011-12**

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

The Committee on Rules, Jurisdiction and Elections (RJE) provides clarification and interpretation of Senate legislation and Divisional procedures. During the past year, the Committee was called upon to serve in only two instances. The following business was carried out via email.

### ***2011-12 Divisional Election***

In consultation with RJE, the 2011-12 election was conducted electronically by the Senate Office. Nominations were sought to fill the divisional chairship, 3 Assembly Representative positions, and 4 open seats on the Committee on Committees (COC).

Following the nomination period, the sole candidate for divisional chair was Kum-Kum Bhavnani from the Department of Sociology. There were no additional nominations from the floor when her candidacy was announced to the Faculty Legislature. Professor Bhavnani was elected as Chair of the Santa Barbara Division, effective September 1, 2012.

Claudio Fogu from French and Italian and Louise Fradenburg from English were elected to serve as Representatives of the Senate Assembly, effective September 1, 2012. The remaining open position will be filled via appointment by COC.

Cathy Nesci from French and Italian, Claudine Michel from Black Studies, and Forest Brewer from Mechanical Engineering were elected to serve as members of the Committee on Committees, effective September 1, 2012. The remaining COC position will be filled via appointment by the Committee.

### ***Proposed Revision of the College of Letters and Science Faculty Bylaws***

RJE reviewed a proposal from the College of Letters and Science Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) requesting to revise the bylaw governing the election of its members. This proposal followed on the heels of changes that were made to the same bylaw in May of 2011. In an effort to increase efficiency and build on member expertise within the FEC, the term of service for members had been increased to 3 years, and the practice of conducting elections for unexpired portions of terms was discontinued, with the intention that COC would henceforth fill any prematurely vacated seats. Just prior to the approval of the 2011 revision, the FEC elected a new member to serve the final year of a resigning member's unexpired term. When submitting the 2011 proposal, the FEC had failed to realize that it was inadvertently creating a one-time-only situation in which a newly elected member would be barred from fulfilling a 3-year term.

After substantial consultation with RJE, the FEC proposed to the Faculty Legislature that the following sentence be added to the bylaw in question.

*Any member previously elected for a term of less than three years may serve for a term of up to three years.*

Although members of the Faculty Legislature were at first reluctant to make this change based on a single incident, the proposal was ultimately approved on the condition that the above sentence be removed from the bylaw once the situation to which it applies has elapsed. RJE will therefore attend to this task at the appropriate time.

Committee Members:

Christopher McMahon

Eric Smith, Parliamentarian

Mark Srednicki

Louise Fradenburg, Chair

Staff Advisor: Debra Blake