

New Senate Rule Amendments That Would Require Updates to the Regents' Bylaws

The Senate Assembly's Rules, Practices, and Policies (RPP) committee has recommended the following changes to the University Senate rules, which would require updating the Regents' Bylaws.

Eliminate the SACUA Nominating Committee

From Regents Bylaws, Regarding SACUA Composition.

Members of SACUA shall be elected by the assembly from a slate ~~listing nominees submitted by a nominating committee composed of two outgoing members of SACUA and four outgoing members of the assembly elected by the assembly, plus nominations from the floor.~~ of interested and eligible University Senate members. In January of each year, the Faculty Senate Office shall begin collecting nominations and self-nominations of SACUA candidates. The names of ~~the nominees chosen by the nominating committee~~ all interested and eligible candidates must be transmitted to assembly members at least two weeks before the meeting at which the vote is to take place. (4.06)

Explanation: RPP recommends that the six-member SACUA nominating committee be eliminated as creating an unnecessary administrative hurdle. A more efficient process is for the FSO to gather nominations from the Senate membership and then to submit the resulting slate of all interested and eligible candidates for the Senate Assembly's consideration through the election. The FSO is basically performing that process now—except that in the middle of the process, the SACUA Nominating committee meets for 30-60 minutes to approve the slate of eligible and interested candidates. Doing so seems like an unnecessary administrative step, especially given that the SACUA Nominating Committee must itself be elected by the Senate Assembly in January.

Senate Rules Eliminate the SACUA Nominating Committee

The changes to the Regents' Bylaws to remove the SACUA Nominating Committee would also need to be implanted through an identical change to language within the Senate Rules:

Members of SACUA shall be elected by the Assembly from a slate ~~listing nominees submitted by a Nominating Committee composed of two outgoing members of SACUA and four outgoing members of the Assembly elected by the Assembly, plus nominations from the floor.~~ of interested and eligible University Senate members. In January of each year, the Faculty Senate Office shall begin collecting nominations and self-nominations of SACUA candidates. The names of ~~the nominees chosen by the Nominating Committee~~ all interested and eligible candidates must be transmitted to Assembly members at least two weeks before the meeting at which the vote is to take place. (Article III, Section 4, Senate Rules)

University Senate Membership Change: Add Emeritus and Emerita Faculty With an Active Appointment.

From Regents' Bylaws, Regarding Membership

The University Senate shall consist of all members of the tenured or tenure-track professorial staff, the executive officers of the University, the deans of the schools and colleges, such members of the research, clinical, lecturer, archival, curatorial, ~~and~~ librarian staff, and emeritus and emerita faculty with an active appointment as may be designated in accordance with standards and procedures approved by the Senate Assembly, and such other major officers as may be designated by the Board of Regents from time to time. . . . (Sec. 4.01, Regents' Bylaws)

Explanation: the RPP recommends that emeritus/a faculty with an active appointment of at least 50% at the University, such as teaching, should continue to be members of the University Senate as long as they maintain that level of appointment. At present, they are not University Senate members, although they are entitled to attend meetings. Given that these emeritus/emmerita faculty are still actively appointed to a faculty position at the university with an appointment of at least 50%, the RPP thought they should be included as voting Senate members as well. As of 8/10/26, this would add a total of 10 faculty to the Senate. Most emeritus/emmerita faculty would still be unable to vote (although they are welcome at Senate meetings).

The above change to the Regents Bylaws just permits the Senate the option to include emeritus/a faculty, but it does not itself provide for doing so. The next section would actually implement the addition by changing the Senate Rules.

Senate Rules Addition to Add Emeritus Faculty

New membership language would need to be added to the Senate Rules to actually add emeritus/emmerita faculty with an active appointment of at least 50% as Senate members:

Emeritus and Emerita faculty who have an active regular, primary appointment of at least 50% as an Emeritus or Emerita faculty member shall be designated as members of the University Senate. Otherwise, Emeritus and Emerita faculty shall be regarded as members of the University instructional and primary staff who have retired and as such are entitled to attend without vote meetings of the University Senate. (Article 1, Section 1, Senate Rules)

Explanation: the above language largely parallels other tracks, with a 50% appointment to a faculty position being required. As of 8/10/26, this would add a total of 10 faculty to the Senate. These membership changes would require a 2/3 approval of the Senate to pass.

Approved by Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs on August 31, 2026

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