



OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8502  
TELEPHONE: (530) 752-2231

January 24, 2014

**WILLIAM JACOB**

Academic Council Chair  
University of California

**RE: Systemwide Review of Proposal to Amend Senate Bylaw 55**

The proposal was forwarded to all Davis Division of the Academic Senate standing committees and Faculty Executive Committees from the Schools and Colleges. Detailed responses were received from the Committee on Academic Personnel – Oversight, Faculty Welfare, Graduate Council, Planning and Budget, and Elections, Rules and Jurisdiction as well as from the Faculty Executive Committees from the College of Engineering, Letters and Science and the School of Medicine.

Overall, the feedback I have received indicates that the proposal is not supported by the Davis Division. While there is broad awareness among the Davis faculty of the problem this proposal is meant to address, many doubt that implementation of it would solve the problem without creating a new set of issues of at least comparable severity. The most frequently expressed concern is that the proposed change in Bylaw 55 would lead to more uneven treatment of Cooperative Extension specialists, Health Science Clinical Professors and Adjunct Professors who, at Davis, are members of the Academic Federation. It is hard to imagine a new version of Bylaw 55, regardless of whether the revisions would apply to the Health Sciences only or to the entire campus, that would allow all departments to hold a vote on all titles in which it currently has members who it would like to consider making eligible to vote without creating new issues. There is also little doubt that the outcome of such a vote would vary from department to department. As a result, only a rearrangement of the sets of “haves” and “have nots” would result.

The Committee on Elections, Rules, and Jurisdiction pointed to possible conflict between the proposed revision of Bylaw 55 and the existing Davis Division Bylaw 28.E. Bylaw 28.E provides, “Only members of the Academic Senate may vote in divisional committees when those agencies or committees are taking final action on any matter for the Academic Senate, or giving advice to University officers or other non-Senate agencies in the name of the Davis Division.” Although this does not specifically refer to votes on personnel actions, it does reflect the concerns of the Davis Division Academic Senate to preserve the authority of the Senate on important matters.

The Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Engineering pointed out that some departments have appointed some former Adjunct Professors with strong credentials as Professors in Residence, and that such a selective approach seems preferable over a decision by departmental vote for all appointees in a given title.

The School of Medicine Faculty Executive committee recommends that all college and school Faculty Executive Committees strive to encourage their campus administrations to hire as many new faculty into Academic Senate series titles, and to work with the Administration to move qualified non-Senate faculty into Academic Senate series titles. The School of Medicine faculty also recommends that the Academic Senate work with the Administration and the Regents to redefine appointees in the Health Science Clinical Professor series as Academic Senate members. I do not know to what extent such a proposal would be supported by the Davis Division as a whole.

In conclusion, while the proposal from the UCSD Division seems sensible, I have to report that it does not have the support of the Davis Division.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruno Nachtergaele', written in a cursive style.

Bruno Nachtergaele, Chair  
Davis Division of the Academic Senate  
Professor: Mathematics