

Voting in Special Committees
Committee on Elections, Rules and Jurisdiction
April 18, 2012

CERJ was asked for advice regarding the right to vote in a special committee of the Division. CERJ advises that only members of the special committee who are members of the Academic Senate may vote.

Rationale

Davis Division Bylaw 28(A) states: “Committees of the Davis Division include the Representative Assembly, the Committee on Committees, regular standing committees (including the Committee on Academic Personnel, the Faculty Personnel Committees, and the Committee of Academic Personnel Advisers), joint standing committees, special committees, task-forces, and the Faculties of colleges and schools.” Thus, a special committee is a committee of the Davis Division.

Bylaw 28(E) specifies the conditions for voting in committees of the Division. “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. Persons other than Senate members may be given the right to vote on other questions, such as those that involve only recommendations to other Senate agencies, but only by explicit Bylaw provisions.”

There are no explicit Bylaw provisions allowing persons other than Senate members to have the right to vote on any special committee. In particular, Bylaw 31, Special Committees, makes no mention of voting rights. Therefore, only members of the Academic Senate may vote in special committees.