



**Academic Senate**  
Professor Kenneth Barish  
Division Chair

March 18, 2026

Richard Carpiano, Lead Proponent  
School of Public Policy

Kurt Schwabe, Chair  
School of Public Policy Faculty Executive Committee

**Re: Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer  
(Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)**

Dear Colleagues,

The Academic Senate Executive Council included the subject proposal along with the response comments from committees on our Monday, March 9, 2026 agenda.

The proposal was first reviewed by the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (FRL). FRL's comments were then appended to the proposal and routed to other committees for review. The proposal received mixed feedback and I have enclosed these individual comment memos for consideration in case a revised proposal is to be submitted. If a revision is developed, please send it to my attention with a courtesy copy to Academic Senate Executive Director Cherysa Cortez with [New Business] in the subject line.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenneth Barish".

Kenneth Barish  
Chair, Academic Senate

Cc: Committee on Faculty Research Chair Bailey-Serres  
Senate Director Cortez  
Senate Analyst Kelley-Henry

Enclosures



**COMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION**

February 19, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division Academic Senate

From: Esra Kurum, Chair   
Committee on Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

**Re: [Campus Review] (Bylaw Change) Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)**

The Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has reviewed the proposal above and the supplemental documents and counterproposal concurrently provided. The committee appreciates the desire to broaden the scope of the Faculty Research Lecturer (FRL) Award to enhance inclusion and champion the importance of science, creativity, and accessible research for the UCR community. CODEI requests further communication from the FRL Award Committee in relation to their response to the original proposal. An explanation of the reasonings behind the vigorous committee response, the counter proposals offered, and clarification of the role of the “UC-Wide” FRL would be helpful in determining the best path forward.

In the interim, CODEI has assessed the two aspects of the proposal on their own merits and feasibility related to the charge of the committee as follows:

**Committee Membership:**

While the committee finds the intent to have representation from every college or school appropriate for the purposes of access and inclusion, current feasibility of this endeavor could prove to be a hinderance to filling committee membership. Alternatively, the proposed retaining of a supermajority of five former FRLs in the committee would ultimately render the inclusion of two additional members arbitrary.

The committee suggests a charge that prioritizes representation from all schools or colleges with seven members and stipulates no less than two former FRLs with neither former FRLs nor members of any one school or college being able to hold a majority in the committee. This structure would seek to retain the necessary expertise of the Award committee while potentially broadening the scope of faculty contribution to the decision seeking a more accurate reflections of the campus academic community.

**Award Recipients:**

Historically, the Faculty Research Lecturer award has been awarded to Distinguished Faculty to recognize their excellent contributions in their field. The proposed suggestion to identify awardees at every level would improve inclusivity and allow for the recognition of research excellence at each rank.

Recognition of this sort would serve to broaden the scope of research presented, the audience in attendance from the campus community, and upshift recognition in UCR campus culture. It also would serve as an amplifier for research and faculty excellence at the University increasing publicity, retention, campus perceptions of excellence, and faculty achievement translating to accolades at later ranks and national stages.

TO: Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

FR: Kurt Schwabe, Chair   
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: **[Comments] Proposed Changes to Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer**

Date: February 16, 2026

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The Faculty Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy has reviewed both the **Proposed Changes to Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (FRL)**, and the Committee of Faculty Research (CFR) responses. Two prominent requests within the proposal seem to be (i) increased opportunities to recognize more distinguished research that is happening at UCR, and (ii) allowance for more input that may better appreciate, identify, and select the FRL among the diversity of distinguished research and creative activities that are occurring across UCR's many colleges, schools, and programs.

We understand that this is a UC-wide program—i.e., each campus has a committee and identifies FRLs annually. As pointed out in the justification for the proposed changes and in the response by CFR, different campuses have different approaches. Currently UCR awards one FRL annually. The SPP FEC feels that expanding the award to perhaps two per year—similar to what we see at UCLA, UCB, and UCSD as examples—would provide a multitude of benefits. First, it would give the CFR the opportunity to better recognize the abundance of faculty with a distinguished research and creative scholarship than limiting the award to a single faculty member annually. Second, it would reduce potential conflicts, slightly in some cases, of having to choose between two equally deserving candidates (of course, there could be more than two and thus this problem would still exist). It would also better recognize the diversity of distinguished research and creative activities across campus. We can imagine that even the awards ceremony and the people attending (which would likely increase) would benefit from more than one award (e.g., through raising awareness), especially if the award was allocated to disciplines across the campus (which we see occurring elsewhere throughout the UC system). We feel there are opportunities here to expand without losing the respect and distinction associated with the award.

The proposal makes the suggestion of distinguished research lecturer awards for faculty at different ranks. The CFM suggests that there are other awards for faculty at different ranks throughout UCR. While a bit more specificity would be helpful in making that case uniformly across colleges, schools, and programs, the SPP FEC understands – or at least interprets – that the FRL is about a distinguished research record, not necessarily a distinguished research year or few years. Yet in looking at the past award winners, over

the past twenty years (we only go back to 2005), we can identify only a single faculty member to win the FRL award who wasn't a Distinguished Professor at the time of being awarded the FRL (Professor Norman Ellstand in 2011). So while the award is listed as being open to faculty from all ranks, and again understanding that the CFM is charged with identifying a distinguished record (and of course being listed as a Distinguished Professor does send a signal, especially having gone through the process of advancing to the Distinguished Professor designation, of distinguished research), the designation of Distinguished Professor is neither a necessary nor sufficient condition to be a FRL. Perhaps, at the very least, more messaging needs to accompany the call for nominations and emphasize that it is open to all ranks and that the only requirement is a distinguished record of research.

On the topic of committee membership, we appreciate that the CFR will consider expanding membership. Yet we feel that to ensure representation across the campus in a manner that allows the committee to fully appreciate and choose among the vast diversity of distinguished research and creative activity across UCR's colleges, departments, and programs, we see value in having member criteria from across UCR's colleges and schools. For example, and not that we have to mimic other UC campuses, but UCLA's committee membership is based on the following:

“A committee will be formed consisting of at least five Academic Senate members from a variety of disciplines across campus. The committee will also include representation from previous Faculty Research Lecturers. After reading all nominations, the committee will convene to discuss the merits of all candidates and select the two awardees for the upcoming academic year.”

The proposal is requesting Academic Senate member across schools and colleges, while UCLA's only requires “across disciplines.” Of course, the current committee has diversity on it from different disciplines, but only has faculty from CNAS (3) and CHASS (2). This is likely largely influenced by limiting membership to past award winners. We see value in following a model where (i) different colleges and schools are represented, and (ii) some representation from past award winners is present (but not necessarily the majority of the committee).



February 24th, 2026

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Campus Review] Bylaw Change: Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)

Prof. Barish,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed change to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer at the February 3rd meeting and has comments to provide to the Senate.

The committee agrees that there are benefits to expanding membership across colleges. But they don't agree with the need to expand the lecture award (specifically the award coming with a lecture) across 4 ranks. Attendance at the lectures is also an issue. The goal of providing more recognition for research at other ranks can be obtained with research awards without lectures.

It was also brought up as a concern that this proposal seems to have been brought by professors seeking to change the committee on Faculty Research Lecturer from the outside.

The committee would like to recommend against implementation of the proposed changes and suggest discussion of other ways of recognizing distinguished research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Tom".

Harry Tom, Ph.D  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences



**COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION**

Date: January 14, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Randolph C. Head, Chair  
Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Head".

**Re: [Campus Review] (Bylaw Change) Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)**

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction has carefully considered *Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)*. The Committee understands the proposed bylaw changes are meant to modernize the scope and determination of the Faculty Research Lecturer Award to broaden recognition across faculty career stages and areas of study. In this, R&J believes the proposed regulations would benefit from minor modifications to increase clarity and consistency. If completed, the committee approves of this bylaw change with no further committee review.

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction offers the following to assist with the above:

- 8.13.2, Line 3**            Suggested editing the parenthesis to read “(one each at the rank of...)”
- Line 5**                    Suggested replacing “who have made a distinguished record...” with “who have established a distinguished record...”



February 4, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Iván Aguirre, Interim Chair  
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Bylaw Change: Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty  
Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)

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The CHASS Executive Committee reviewed the proposal for changes to the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (FRL) and in general agree with these changes as they bring more representation to the Committee and more support for the important and relevant research and activities of our colleagues. We discussed how the benefits of expanding potential award recipient status beyond senior faculty would greatly impact the campus community, and outweigh potential costs related to application review labor, lecture, marketing, etc. We understand this labor increase and as such greatly support the expansion of the committee to allow this growth while not loading extra labor on a small group. Ultimately, we find supporting research and creative activities in this way can positively impact the university by attracting donors, foment community engagement and in general bring more attention to campus and the academic work produced at UCR. We want to underline the impact of these changes from a public relations angle, signaling how this recognition of UCR faculty and the level of impact of their work can be recognized by the Senate, which we can see can have a profound impact in our current social and political climate where higher education is more important than ever.

We encourage the proposers to consider the feedback from the Committee on the FRL to include “creative activities” as a category to recognize, and to search for ways to continue incorporating past awardees while also seeking representation from the faculty across campus.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES**

February 19, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Francesca Hopkins, Chair  
Committee on Committees

**Re: [Campus Review] (Bylaw Change) Proposed Changes to the Charge of the  
Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)**

The Committee on Committees (CoC) reviewed the proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.01, 8.13.02) at their February 19, 2026 meeting. CoC was supportive of expanding the membership of the FRL Committee to include 7 members made up of 4 former FRL award recipients and 3 at-large tenured faculty members (not previous FRL award recipients). The Chair of the FRL committee should be a former award recipient. CoC agreed to make every effort to appoint at least one member from a professional school to the FRL committee. CoC was supportive of expanding the FRL award to two per year (one for a Full/Distinguished Professor and one for an Associate Professor). CoC encourages the Senate to consider awarding an annual early or junior career research award which can be solicited and selected by a separate Senate committee.

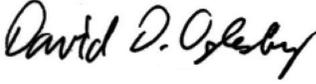


**PLANNING AND BUDGET**

February 17, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: David Oglesby, Chair  
Committee on Planning and Budget



**Re: [Campus Review] Bylaw Change: *Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)***

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed the *Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)*. CPB does not see any significant financial impact or budget-related red flags.

January 23, 2026

**TO:** Ken Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

**FROM:** Evangelos (Vagelis) Christidis, Chair   
BCOE Executive Committee

**RE:** Proposed Change to the Charge for the Committee on Faculty Research  
Lecturer

The BCOE Executive Committee met on January 23rd, 2026. Regarding Proposed Change to the Charge for the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer, the committee disagreed with the proposed changes, as they would harm the prestige of the award. Instead, the committee endorses the alternative proposal submitted by the FRL committee.



School of Business  
Anderson Hall  
900 University Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92521

January 16, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: Jerayr Haleblian  
Chair, School of Business Executive Committee

Re: (Consultation): *Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer*

We, the members of the Business School Executive Committee, agree with the initial sentiment that:

8.13.01 The committee consists of seven members of the Division appointed from each of the three colleges (BCOE, CHASS, and CNAS) and four professional schools (BUS, SOE, SOM, and SPP) such that each college and school has one representative on the committee.

In general, we believe that three colleges and four professional schools should be represented on all key committees.

2/17/2026

**To:** Kenneth Barish, Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
and Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

**From:** Kinnari Atit, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

**Subject:** FEC's Feedback on the Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)

The SOE Executive Committee reviewed the Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2). Comments/feedback were solicited at our executive committee meeting and via email.

The SOE FEC has no feedback on this proposed change.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kinnari" followed by a stylized flourish.

Kinnari Atit  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee  
Associate Professor  
School of Education  
University of California, Riverside  
Email: [kinnari.atit@ucr.edu](mailto:kinnari.atit@ucr.edu)



January 22, 2026

TO: Ken Barish, PhD, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Adam Godzik, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

SUBJECT: **[Campus Review] Bylaw Change: *Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)***

Dear Ken,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the *Bylaw Change: Proposed Changes to the Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.1, 8.13.2)*

Regarding the awards proposal, the committee expressed reservations about creating multiple award levels, preferring to maintain the current single prestigious award while supporting other recognition mechanisms for junior or mid-career faculty.

Yours sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
F3F7FC0ECB4E4AD...

Adam Godzik, Ph.D.  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine



December 10, 2025

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Julia Bailey-Serres, Chair  
Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer

**Re: 25-26. CR. Proposed Changes to Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.01, 8.13.02)**

The FRL Committee met on December 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the two requests for Bylaw to the FRL committee composition and scope.

**8.13.01** proposal of Carpiano *et al.*:

PRESENT:	PROPOSED:
<p>8.13 Faculty Research Lecturer</p> <p><b>8.13.01</b> This committee consists of five members of the Division appointed from among previous Faculty research lecturers.</p>	<p>8.13 Faculty Research Lecturers</p> <p>8.13.01 This committee consists of <u>seven</u> members of the Division <u>appointed from each of the three colleges BCOE, CHASS, and CNAS) and four professional schools (BUS, SOE, SOM, and SPP) such that each college and school has one representative on the committee</u></p>

**FRL Response**

As mentioned in the communicated request, the FRL committee serves as the conduit of nominations for the FRL from faculty within the UCR Division of the Academic Senate. This award is considered the most distinguished award delivered by faculty peers. Per Bylaw 8.13.02, "It is the duty of this committee to nominate for election by the Division any member of the Division who has made a distinguished record in research to deliver a lecture upon a topic of his/her selection".

The current process is consistent with 8.13. The committee invites nominations of any member of the Academic Senate by peers, through Department Chairs. Currently, there is no prerequisite for rank of the nominee in our Bylaw. UCLA's nomination procedure states that a rank of Full Professor is required. Per our member, Full Professors at or above Step VI are those who are nominated.

We recommend that the COC decline the Proposed change in this bylaw and propose a different revision that will expand disciplinary expertise on the committee. We understand the concern that the breadth of campus disciplines is not fully represented every year. This is true for other Senate committees. For the FRL committee, the imbalance in disciplinary representation could be reduced by adding two additional members. These two members do not need to be prior FRL awardees. We encourage COC to use these appointments to enhance disciplinary representation.

**FRL Recommendation for revision of 8.13.01**

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>PROPOSED BY FRL COMMITTEE:</b>
<p>8.13 Faculty Research Lecturer</p> <p>8.13.01 This committee consists of five members of the Division appointed from among previous Faculty research lecturers<sup>1</sup>.</p>	<p>8.13 Faculty Research Lecturers</p> <p>8.13.01 This committee consists of <u>seven members</u> of the Division. These include five members appointed from among previous Faculty research lecturers. <u>Two additional members are to be appointed from any college or professional school to broaden Divisional representation. These two members are to be at or above the Full Professor rank. They do not need to have been prior FRL awardees. The term of service is three years.</u></p>

<sup>1</sup> The FRL committee is composed of five prior FRL awardees, with one serving as chair. The typical period of service is 3 years. Often, the COC invites the newly elected FRL to join the committee.

**08.13.02** proposal of Carpiano *et al.*:

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>PROPOSED:</b>
<p>08.13.02 It is the duty of this committee to nominate for election by the Division any member of the Division who has made a distinguished record in research to deliver a lecture upon a topic of his/her selection. This nomination for the succeeding academic...</p>	<p>08.13.02 It is the duty of this committee to nominate for election by the Division any four members of the Division <u>(one each for assistant professor, associate professor, professor, and distinguished professor) who have made a distinguished record in research at their respective rank to each deliver a lecture upon a topic of their selection that is accessible for a broad campus and public audience. These</u> nominations for the succeeding academic year shall be made no later than the final meeting of the Division in the spring term.</p>

**Response:** The FRL committee does not support the proposed change. Other awards for early to late career faculty are in place at UCR (i.e., Chancellor distinguished...), college, department, school, and graduate program levels. These include awards for excellence in research, teaching, and service. If there is motivation within the Academic Senate to expand awards for excellence in research or creative activities at an earlier stage, whether or not coupled with a lecture, the criteria for recognition and other aspects of the award should be handled separately from the UC-wide Faculty Research Lecture award.

**FRL Recommendation:** We recommend that the COC decline the Proposed change in bylaw 08.13.02. We suggest the following change in this Bylaw to clarify that significant creative activities could be the justification for the award.

<b>PRESENT:</b>	<b>PROPOSED:</b>
08.13.02 It is the duty of this committee to nominate for election by the Division any member of the Division who has made a distinguished record in research to deliver a lecture upon a topic of his/her selection. This nomination for the succeeding academic year shall be made no later than the final meeting of the Division in the spring term.	08.13.02 It is the duty of this committee to nominate for election by the Division a member of the Division who has made a distinguished record in research <u>or creative activities</u> to deliver a lecture upon a topic of their selection. This nomination for the succeeding academic year shall be made no later than the final meeting of the Division in the spring term.

## CHANGES TO BYLAWS

Richard M. Carpiano, Professor, School of Public Policy  
David Biggs, Professor, Department of History  
Shaun Bowler, Distinguished Professor, Department of Political Science  
Robert Clark, Professor and Chair, Department of Sociology  
Anil Deolalikar, Professor, Department of Economics  
Kevin Esterling, Professor, School of Public Policy, and Professor and Chair, Department  
of Political Science  
Michalis Faloutsos, Professor, Department of Computer Science  
Elodie Goodman, Professor, School of Business  
Tony Grubestic, Professor, School of Public Policy  
Amy Kroska, Professor, Department of Sociology  
Katherine Meltzoff, Associate Professor, School of Education  
Mehdi Nemati, Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy  
Sharon Oselin, Professor, School of Public Policy and Department of Sociology  
Ran Wei, Associate Professor, School of Public Policy  
Mark Wolfson, Professor and Chair, Department of Social Medicine, Population, and  
Public Health

### REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION (Date of next Division Meeting TBD)

#### To Be Adopted

#### Proposed Changes to Charge of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer (Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.01, 8.13.02)

##### PRESENT:

8.13 Faculty Research Lecturer

8.13.01 This committee consists of ~~five~~ members of the Division appointed from ~~among previous Faculty research lecturers.~~

08.13.02 It is the duty of this committee to nominate for election by the Division any ~~member~~ of the Division who ~~has~~ made a distinguished record in research to deliver a lecture upon a topic of ~~his/her~~ selection. ~~This nomination~~ for the succeeding academic

##### PROPOSED:

8.13 Faculty Research Lecturers

8.13.01 This committee consists of seven members of the Division appointed from each of the three colleges (BCOE, CHASS, and CNAS) and four professional schools (BUS, SOE, SOM, and SPP) such that each college and school has one representative on the committee.

08.13.02 It is the duty of this committee to nominate for election by the Division any four members of the Division (one each for assistant professor, associate professor, professor, and distinguished professor) who have made a distinguished record in research at their respective rank to each

year shall be made no later than the final meeting of the Division in the spring term.

deliver a lecture upon a topic of their selection that is accessible for a broad campus and public audience. These nominations for the succeeding academic year shall be made no later than the final meeting of the Division in the spring term.

**Statement of Purpose and Effect:** As an R1 university, Association of American Universities member, and campus of the University of California system, UCR's mission and global profile heavily rely on the scholarly activities and accomplishments of its faculty spanning all career stages and programs throughout the campus' three colleges and four professional schools. Given the prominence of faculty research activity, it is important for our campus and Division to celebrate scholarly excellence—especially during the present period when the value of knowledge and scholarship is under serious attack. However, to date, the Riverside Division offers only one faculty award for distinguished scholarly activity: the annual Faculty Research Lectureship Award. Since its inception decades ago, this award honors one senior faculty member and thus is limited in its ability to celebrate scholarly excellence on our campus.

These proposed changes to Senate Bylaws 8.13, 8.13.01, and 8.13.02 aim to modernize the scope and adjudication of the annual Faculty Research Lecturer Award in order to better enable Division (and campus) recognition of scholarly excellence across faculty career stage and areas of study.

Presently, the Faculty Research Lectureship award fails to achieve this important goal due to Senate Bylaw language that pertains to it as well as Award Committee interpretation of such Bylaws:

- Per Bylaw 8.13.02: “It is the duty of this committee to nominate for election by the Division any member of the Division who has made a distinguished record in research to deliver a lecture upon a topic of his/her selection.”

No specific career stage is explicitly mentioned in this bylaw. However, historically, the Faculty Research Lectureship Award has only honored faculty who are in the most senior stage of their career (typically Distinguished Professors) and have already accrued multiple national and international honors for the extent and impact of their scholarship produced over many decades.

- Per Bylaw 8.13.01: this Division award is adjudicated by a five-person committee consisting of only former Faculty Research Lectureship award winners.

Thus, the Faculty Research Lectureship Award's current focus and adjudication are problematic in several ways for honoring research excellence:

- 1. The Faculty Research Lectureship Award is too limited in how it honors Scholarly Excellence on the UCR campus.**

Given that this is the only Division (and campus) honor for faculty scholarship, the historical practice of limiting its award to only the most senior members of the Division improperly conflates “distinguished record” with senior career stage as if recognition for scholarly excellence is a distinction that should be limited to only the most senior faculty. In doing so, it ignores the distinguished scholarly records of UCR faculty at all career stages. This is unlike awards at other UCs and R1/Research Intensive universities that also honor faculty from other ranks/career stages—for example:

- UCI: <https://senate.uci.edu/distinguished-faculty-awards/>
- UCM: <https://senate.ucmerced.edu/Academic-Senate-Awardees>
- University of British Columbia: <https://prizes.research.ubc.ca/awards/killam-faculty-research-prizes>
- University of Michigan: <https://rackham.umich.edu/faculty-and-staff/awards/>
- University of Wisconsin-Madison: <https://provost.wisc.edu/awards-and-grants/>

Therefore, this proposed change would expand the Faculty Research Lectureship Award from one award historically reserved to only senior/Distinguished Professor faculty to **four awards that honor scholarly excellence at each professorial rank (Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor, and Distinguished Professor).**

Consistent with the current Award Bylaw language, each of the four awardees would still be expected to deliver a lecture on the topic of their choosing. However, in order to best highlight the significance of the award winners’ scholarly impact, the lectures would be tailored for a general campus (and public) audience and not simply their disciplinary colleagues and students with greater technical familiarity of the lecture topic.

In doing so, this proposed Bylaw change will:

- a. appropriately recognize the fact that UCR’s scholarly reputation is the product of excellence from among its *entire* faculty—not just its most senior faculty.
- b. make the award representative of the *full membership* of the Division, which is comprised of faculty of all ranks.
- c. make the award consistent with awards for faculty scholarly excellence given by other universities, professional societies, foundations, and government funding agencies.

## **2. Improved Inclusivity in Award Committee Adjudication.**

This proposed change would also promote inclusivity in the Award adjudication process by reforming the Award Committee to consist of one representative from each of the three colleges and four professional schools, for a total of seven committee members. Presently, the annual Award Committee only consists of (five) past Faculty Research Lectureship winners. Thus, it is adjudicated by a committee consisting of only the most senior members of the Division (including Emeritus faculty) who, historically, have only been affiliated with the three colleges (BCOE, CHASS, and CNAS) but never any of the

professional schools. This limits representation of the diversity of fields, disciplines, and scholarly areas at UCR, which has implications for the adjudication process.

Therefore, this proposed change would expand the expertise of the committee to help promote objective evaluations of all nominees, including those in many fields and subdisciplines that have not previously been honored and subsequently represented on the Committee.

**Benefits of the Proposed Bylaw Change:** These Bylaw changes will help the Division to:

1. **Improve its ability to recognize and honor “distinguished” scholarly contributions from among the *entire* Division.**

This change will increase the significance of the award. Presently, any senior faculty member who wins this campus award, ironically, has already received more prestigious national and international awards for their scholarly record (e.g., National Academies induction). Thus, reserving the award for only such senior scholars undermines the profile and significance of the award. Expanding the award to honor faculty at earlier career stages would be more meaningful and beneficial for the careers of these more junior recipients and increase the Faculty Research Lectureship Award’s profile and significance.

2. **Promote broader recognition of such scholarly accomplishments and intellectual contributions by better specifying the parameters of the lectureship that each awardee is expected to deliver as part of this honor.**

At a time when scholarship and higher education are under threat, ensuring broader audience accessibility (e.g., undergraduates from across campus, the general public) to complex scholarly ideas is essential and should be prioritized.

3. **Most fairly and inclusively adjudicate the records of nominees that should represent the broad diversity of intellectual areas and scholarly excellence (across ranks) on the UCR campus.**

In its current form, such ideal Committee practices cannot be achieved and thus must be amended to do so.

Submitted by Richard M. Carpiano: June 6, 2025

Section below is for Senate use only

(if applicable) Approved by the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_: (Insert date of committee approval)

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction finds the  
wording to be consistent with the code of the

Academic Senate:

(leave blank)

Received by Executive Council:

(leave blank)