

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

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(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)