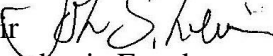


UC RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA | **Academic Senate**
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

February 6, 2018

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

From: John Levin, Chair 
Committee on Academic Freedom

Re: BY-LAW Amendment Senate Bylaw 128 (SB 128), Conflict of Interest

The Committee on Academic Freedom reviewed Senate Bylaw 128 (SB 128), Conflict of Interest, for committees, subcommittees, and task forces, distributed December 21, 2017. The Committee views this statement in its amended form, with one exception, to be a useful or default template for all Senate committees. Our concern (exception) pertains to the final sentence of the amended bylaw: "In the absence of agreement between the member and the Chair (or Vice-Chair) of the committee on the appropriate actions, the Chair (or Vice-Chair) of the committee shall inform the Chair (or Vice-Chair) of the Academic Council, who shall make the final determination as to what actions are appropriate." This statement excludes the committee, subcommittee, or taskforce itself from a determination of a conflict of interest and instead vests that determination in both the chair (or vice-chair) of the committee, subcommittee, or taskforce and the chair (or vice-chair) of the Academic Council. We suggest instead that the committee itself, minus the member in question, make the determination, which would include discussion and a vote. That is, "The chair (of said committee, subcommittee, or taskforce) will convene the committee, subcommittee, or taskforce, except for the individual with the possible conflict, and those present will decide by majority vote if a conflict exists."