UC RIVERSIDE Academic Senate

**COMMITTEE ON RULES AND JURISDICTION**

Date: October 28, 2026

To: Kenneth Barish, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Feng Xu, Chair
Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction

**Re: [Campus Review] (Bylaw Change) 3rd Rd-UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction has carefully considered the *3rd Rd-UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4: 2–Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration; 3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4–Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy*.

R&J believes the proposed regulations would benefit from essential modifications to increase clarity and consistency of the proposal before final approval. The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction offers the following to assist in the above and to ensure overall document consistency:

1. **Plan availability (02.01).** 02.01 seems to suggest that both Plan I and II are available for all Master's degrees but this is not so under specific degree plans starting at 03.01 - a line should be added in 02.01 to indicate the existence of exceptions later. Suggested wording for the second sentence of 02.01:

   *"With the approval of the Graduate Council, a graduate program may adopt one or both plans, except where the plans available for a specific degree objective are specified in 03.01."*

2. **SR 688 / 690 (summer residence, 02.02.02, 04.01.02).**
   (a) "At least 2 units of work in two 5-week summer sessions" should read "in each," as SR 690 requires.

   (b) For the Ph.D., SR 690 requires the two sessions to be consecutive; 04.01.02 omits this. Suggested wording for the Summer Session sentence in 04.01.02:

*"Summer Session enrollment counts as one quarter of residence if the student completes at least 2 units of work in each of two consecutive 5-week Summer Sessions or at least 4 units of work in a 10-week Summer Session."*

(c) SR 690 is framed in six-week sessions. The proposal acknowledges that UCR's 5-week sessions do not match, but it should state the basis for treating them as equivalent.

(d) The summer options are placed in the sentence defining residence "in a regular quarter," which summer enrollment cannot satisfy. SR 688 (regular terms) and SR 690 (when Summer Sessions may be counted as a term) treat these separately. Separating them would also give 02.02.01's cross-reference ("the criteria outlined in 02.02.02") something to point to. Suggested rewording of the first paragraph of 02.02.02 (and correspondingly 04.01.02):

*"A candidate for a higher degree is regarded as in residence in a regular quarter if the student attends authorized University courses amounting to at least one upper division or graduate course of 4 units or more, or 4 units of upper division and/or graduate work. Summer Session enrollment counts as one quarter of residence if the student completes at least 2 units of work in each of two 5-week Summer Sessions or at least 4 units of work in a 10-week Summer Session."*

(e) The current rule gives half a term's residence for a single summer session; under the proposal, a single session counts for nothing. The justification does not acknowledge this change.
These points were not raised in earlier rounds. R&J's November 2025 comment concerned only when summer counts toward residence, and GC's objection concerned cost. The justification cites SR 688 but not SR 690, which governs summer residence.

3. **SR 728 (Candidate in Philosophy).** SR 728 treats the C.Phil. as a degree. Programs authorized to confer it may recommend it upon a student's advancement to Ph.D. candidacy, and the award must specify the student's field of specialization. Proposed 03.02 and the heading of 03 refer to the C.Phil. as a "status," and they omit both the authorization requirement and the field requirement. The limitation to students leaving UCR is narrower than SR 728. Because SR 728 is permissive, this limitation may be within the Division's discretion, but the justification should acknowledge it. The Committee also notes that its November 2025 suggestion to place the definition first has not been reflected in the text. Suggested rewording:

*Heading of 03: "Requirements for Specific Master's Degree Objectives and for the Degree of Candidate in Philosophy"*
*03.02 Requirements for the Degree of Candidate in Philosophy (C.Phil.): "The degree of Candidate in Philosophy may be awarded, in graduate programs authorized to confer it, to a Ph.D. student who has advanced to candidacy. It is awarded only to students leaving UCR without a Master's or doctoral degree. Applications must be made to the Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies with the recommendation of the graduate program concerned. The degree award shall specify the student's field of specialization."*

4. **Removal of 02.04 (Scholarship Requirements).** The justification states that 02.04 is "already covered" by Regulation 1.2. The Committee is not certain this is so. Under 02.04, a 3.0 average in program-related upper-division and graduate courses is a condition of the Master's degree, and the Graduate Council may waive it for a distinguished final-year record. Regulation 1.2 instead makes a cumulative GPA below 3.0 a ground on which students "become subject to dismissal," with

action by the Dean, and contains no Graduate Council waiver. Removal would therefore appear (a) to end the 3.0 average as a degree requirement for the Master's, and (b) to remove an authority currently held by the Graduate Council. The Committee asks that the justification address these effects, or that 02.04 be retained.

5. **Amendment history.** The proposed text drops the amendment notes carried by the provisions it revises: "(Am 24 Jan 74)" in 02.02, "(AM Feb 22)" in 04.01, and "(Am 24 May 05)(Am 11 Feb 22)" and "(Am 11 Feb 22)" in 04.05.01–.02. Unless the Division's practice is to reset the history on revision, these notes should be retained and a new amendment date added on adoption (e.g., "(Am [date of Division vote])"), so the record of earlier Division actions is preserved.

6. **Cross-references.** The proposal cites other Graduate Division Regulations in three different forms: bare numbers ("outlined in 02.02.02," "beginning in 03.01.01"), "GR" with title ("Standards of Scholarship regulation GR 01.02"), and "GR" without space or title ("can be found in GR05"). Since all refer to the same set of regulations, a single form should be used throughout, e.g., "Regulation 01.02 (Standards of Scholarship and Disqualification)" and "Regulation 05 (Transfer of Units and Backdating)," with bare numbers reserved for subsections of the same regulation.

7. **Transfer provisions (02.02.02, 04.01.02).** The transfer paragraph restates Regulation 5.3 (transfer from institutions outside UC) in different terms, then refers to Regulation 05 for the full rules. It should either be replaced by a cross-reference or conform to 5.3:

   (a) "work taken elsewhere… in an institution of high standing" should read "from institutions outside the University of California," as in 5.3.

   (b) "or two courses if less than 8 units" does not appear in Regulation 05.

   (c) In 04.01.02 the paragraph appears to introduce a limit on Ph.D. transfer credit. The Committee could not locate a corresponding provision elsewhere in the Graduate Division Regulations: Regulation 05 caps transfer only for the Master's degree, and the Committee did not find a Ph.D. unit or course requirement against which such a limit would operate. If a Ph.D. limit is intended, the Committee would welcome clarification of its basis and of whether it represents a change; if so, it might more appropriately be placed in Regulation 05. Similarly, the clause referring to the "minimum requirement in graduate courses taken at this University" does not appear to have a counterpart in the Ph.D. requirements.

   (d) Regulation 5.3, which is not amended by this proposal, refers to the minimum graduate units for the "thesis plan" and the "comprehensive exam plan." Under the proposal, the latter becomes the Capstone plan (02.01.02), in which a comprehensive exam is one option among several. 5.3's wording could then be read as applying only to students whose capstone is an examination. The proposers may wish to consider a conforming amendment to 5.3, e.g.: "(24 units for Plan I (Thesis) and 18 units for Plan II (Capstone) are required)."

8. **Typo (04.01.02).** 04.01.02 reads "regarded as a in residence" (cf. 02.02.02, "regarded as in residence").