

**BY-LAWS
OF THE
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA**

Last Revision April 27, 2004

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I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Cooperative Extension Academic Assembly of the University of California hereafter referred to as the Assembly.

II. MISSION

The mission of the Academic Assembly is to provide a forum to enhance the impacts of CE programs and address the professional needs of CE academic employees. This mission shall be carried out by a representative body of the assembly consisting of elected and appointed members who will constitute the Academic Assembly Council, hereafter referred to as the Council.

III. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Assembly is to act as a statewide body to:

- A. Advise and assist the Administration in maximizing Cooperative Extension's usefulness to the University and the people of California.
- B. Study, develop, and recommend policies and procedures for the benefit and welfare of academic employees of Cooperative Extension of the University of California.
- C. Promote communication between and within the Cooperative Extension and UC System.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

The Assembly is composed of all academic employees of the University of California who hold appointments in Cooperative Extension.

V. OFFICERS

A. The officers of the Assembly are:

1. President
 - a. Election. Is Elected by the Assembly as provided by section X.C. Assumes office at the completion of one term as President-Elect.
 - b. Term of Office. Serves for one year beginning July 1.
 - c. Duties.
 1. Presides at all meetings of the Assembly and the Council and performs other duties as specified in the By-Laws.
 2. Prepares an Annual Report of Accomplishments by July 30 for distribution to the Assembly
2. President/Elect
 - a. Election. Is elected by the assembly as prescribed in Section X.C.
 - b. Term of Office. One year beginning July 1. Succeeds the President.
 - c. Duties.
 1. Presides when the President is unable to attend or conduct the business of the council.

2. Prepares the annual council budget. May appoint an ad hoc budget committee.
 3. Performs other duties as requested or prescribed in the By-Laws.
3. Secretary
- a. Election. Is appointed by the Council at the last meeting of the legislative year. The secretary may be selected from the Assembly membership or Council.
 - b. Term of Office. Serves from the time selected until the next Secretary is appointed, and may succeed themselves in office.
 - c. Duties.
 1. Serves as recording secretary to Council.
 2. Issues calls for all Assembly and Council meetings.
 3. Maintains and distributes the minutes of all Assembly and Council meetings and proceedings.
 4. Maintains permanent file of calls and meeting notices together with appended material.
 5. Provides committee chairs with information pertinent to the work of their committees as requested.
 6. Prepares and reports proposed changes and additions to the By-Laws. Edits and publishes, at appropriate intervals, the By-Laws. Is authorized to make editorial and conforming non-substantive changes in the By-Laws regarding numbered headings, organizational titles, details of style, and similar items. Reports changes to the Council.

B. Vacancies.

If the president's office becomes vacant, the President-Elect assumes the office of President for the remainder of the unexpired term and the following regular term. If the president-elect or both offices are vacant, the Council shall appoint an interim president or president-elect for the remainder of the unexpired term(s). If the president-elect is vacant or has been filled by appointment, President for the following term shall be elected in the next regular election in accordance with procedures in Section X C. If the Secretary position is vacant, the President of the Assembly shall appoint a Secretary pro tem from the membership of Council to serve until the next Council meeting, at which time a Secretary is to be elected to fill the unexpired term.

VI. MEETINGS OF ASSEMBLY

- A. A meeting of the Assembly may be scheduled at any time by the Vice President, DANR, or the President of the Assembly, with the approval of the Council and/or Vice President, DANR. Meetings of the Assembly will not be charged to the regular Assembly Council budget.
- B. The Assembly shall meet each time a Cooperative Extension statewide conference is held.
- C. The call for an Assembly meeting will be issued by the Secretary at least three weeks before the meeting.
- D. One hundred twenty-five members of the Assembly are required for a quorum.

VII. ACADEMIC ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

A. Membership. The Council consists of:

1. The President of the Assembly.
2. The President-Elect of the Assembly.
3. The Past President of the Assembly.
4. The Chairs of the Assembly Standing Committees or Vice Chairs.
5. The Chairs of the Assembly Sub-Regions.
6. The Chairs of the Campus Committees or Vice Chairs.
7. The Secretary of the Assembly.

B. DUTIES

Council, unless otherwise specified in the By-Laws, is authorized to consider and act on any and all matters of concern to the Assembly as a whole within the mission and purpose of the assembly. The Assembly retains ultimate authority over all matters delegated to the Council. The Council is delegated but not limited to:

1. Maintain Assembly liaison with the administrative structure of Cooperative Extension, DANR, System-wide University, and other groups within or outside of the University for the purpose of communicating, coordinating and integrating the policies, practices and recommendations of the Assembly.
2. Prepare a Council budget and administer budgeted funds.
3. Consider such administrative matters as may be referred to it by the Vice President, DANR, or other administrative channels.
4. Receive requests from the assembly or administration, DANR, and direct them to the appropriate committee or committees for action.
5. Receive the reports of all standing or special committees and accept or reject the committees' recommendations and take action as appropriate.
6. Establish special committees of the Council as authorized in Section IX.D.
7. Establish and appoint ad hoc subcommittees from within Council or Assembly to expedite the work of the Council.
8. Receive resignations of members of standing committees and special committees of the Council and charge the rules and elections committee to appoint replacements as necessary.
9. Select a Secretary to the Assembly as prescribed in Section V.A.3.
10. Other duties specified within these By-Laws.

C. Officers. Serve as equivalent officers of the Council.

D. Meetings.

1. The Council shall hold two or more regular meetings each year. The President-elect and Secretary shall arrange and announce the schedule of regular meetings for the following legislative year by July 1. The call for Council meetings is issued by the Secretary at least two weeks before any regular meeting. With consent of a majority of Council members, the President may postpone or cancel a scheduled meeting.
2. Special meetings of Council may be called by the President or Vice President, DANR. Upon written request of five members of the Council, a

special meeting will be scheduled within four weeks time by the President. A call to a special meeting must be sent to all members of the Council at least seven calendar days before the meeting.

3. A simple majority of the membership of the Council constitutes a quorum.

VIII. REGIONS/CAMPUSES OF THE ASSEMBLY

A. COMPOSITION OF THE REGIONS/CAMPUSES.

1. North Coast and Mountain Region Consists Of
Sub-Region1: Del Norte, Humboldt, Siskiyou, Trinity, Shasta, Mendocino, Lake, Sonoma, Napa, Marin;
Sub-Region 2: Modoc, Lassen, Plumas- Sierra, Inyo- Mono, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Calaveras, Amador, El Dorado, Placer- Nevada.
2. Central Valley Region Consists Of
Sub-Region 1: San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare, Kern;
Sub Region 2: Tehama, Butte, Glenn, Colusa, Sutter-Yuba, Sacramento, Yolo, Solano.
3. Central Coast and Southern Region Consists Of
Sub-Region 1: Alameda, Contra Costa, Monterey, San Benito, San Mateo-San Francisco, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara;
Sub-Region 2: Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, And Ventura.
4. Davis Campus.
5. Berkeley Campus.
6. Riverside Campus.

- B. Membership. Assembly members headquartered within a Cooperative Extension region are included in that Region. Assembly members assigned to a campus are included in that Campus. Assembly members shall belong to only one Region/Campus.

IX. COMMITTEES OF THE ASSEMBLY

A. General Functions and Responsibilities

1. Committees may make such studies and recommendations, as they deem appropriate, consistent with their responsibilities.
2. Members of the Assembly have the right to be heard by Committees.
3. Each committee of the Assembly and Council, whether standing, advisory or special, is responsible to the Assembly and Council and shall make a timely, written report of its action/s to the membership through the Council.
4. Duties other than those listed in these By-Laws, or in the authorization of a special committee, imposed upon a committee by the order of Administration will first be approved by the Council or the Executive Committee. The committee in exercising such approved duties will answer to the Executive Committee first, then to those imposing the

additional duties, and will report their activities in their annual report to the Council.

5. Each standing or special committee shall select a chair and chair-elect from their membership to represent the respective committee at council.
6. Each Standing or special Committee shall consist of elected or appointed members of the Assembly as noted in the By-Laws plus the immediate past chair of that committee to maintain committee continuity.

B. Region/Campus Committees

1. Membership. Consists of elected Subregion/Campus representatives plus one program, one personnel and one benefits committee representative appointed by the rules and elections committee all of which must be members of the respective region/campus, plus the past chair.
 - a. Region/Campus Representatives.
 1. Number of Representatives. Each Subregional Committee shall consist of five representatives which may be selected from the sub-regional membership. One each representing, Nutrition, Family/Consumer Science Advisors Youth Advisors and County Directors and two representing Farm, Forest and Marine Advisors. Campuses shall have at least the following specialist representatives: Davis campus, (6), Berkeley campus, (3), Riverside campus, (3).
 2. Election. Subregion/Campus representatives are elected by the respective Subregion/Campus Assembly membership. Elections shall be held annually by May 15. Chair to initiate and hold election.
 - a. The Chair and Vice Chair are elected by the committee membership and serve for one year. The Vice Chair succeeds the Chair.
 3. Term of Office. Serves for three years beginning July 1 terms shall be staggered to assure continuity.
 4. Vacancies. If a Subregion/Campus Representative is unable to serve or resigns, the Rules and Election Committee shall fill the vacancy for the remainder of the legislative year, based on the recommendations of the Subregion/Campus committee. If any of these positions are vacant or have been filled by appointment, the position(s) will be placed on the ballot at the next general election. Those elected shall serve the remainder of the unexpired term.
 - b. Appointed Members.
 1. Program Committee. One committee member shall be appointed by the Rules And Elections Committee to each Region/Campus Committee for the length of their appointment.
 2. Personnel Committee - One committee member shall be appointed by the Rules and Elections Committee to each Region/Campus Committee for the length of their appointment.

3. Benefits committee. One committee member shall be appointed by the rules and elections committee to each region/campus committee for the length of their appointment.

2. Duties.

- a. Provide input to the Council reflecting and addressing the concerns of the Assembly of the Regions or Campuses.
- b. Meet, discuss and recommend action to be taken by the Council.
- c. Provide input to Regional Directors/Deans on issues of regional, campus, and statewide concern.
- d. Provide continuity to Council membership.
- e. Monitor Council actions and the standing committees to ensure that they are addressing the main concerns of their Region/Campus.
- f. Encourage membership to actively participate in Council activities including awards and recognition programs.
- g. Serve as an ombudsman facilitating communications between the Council and the members of their Region/Campus.
- h. Provide a pool for membership in special and ad hoc committees of the Council.
- i. Keep Region/Campus Assembly members informed of all the activities of the Council.
- j. Regional/campus representatives shall meet together prior to each council meeting.

C. Standing Committees

1. General Provisions

- a. Membership. Members of the assembly including the immediate past chair.
- b. Chairs and vice chairs shall be elected by the committees from their membership. The chair or vice chair shall represent their respective committee at the council.
- c. Terms. All standing committee members serve three-year staggered terms with one-third of the membership of each committee selected annually. Unless otherwise specified terms begin July 1.
- d. Vacancies. The Rules and Elections Committee shall make all appointments to standing committee vacancies, excluding their own. Replacements serve for the remainder of unexpired terms.
- e. Annual reports of the standing committees will be submitted in writing to the Council by the last official Council meeting each legislative year.
- f. Standing committees may appoint ad hoc subcommittees, within budgetary limitations, to expedite committee work.
- g. A majority of the membership of a standing committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business
- h. Meetings may be scheduled at the call of the committee chairs upon approval of the President.

2. Standing Committees

a. Rules and Elections

1. Membership.

Consists of four members, including at least one from each C.E. Region and one specialist representative elected by the Assembly. Vice Chair/Chair-Elect of Rules and Elections is elected each year by the current Rules and Elections membership.

2. Elections

Elected annually by regions/campus in the statewide election.

3. Vacancies.

Vacancies are to be filled by appointment by the Council to serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

4. Duties.

a. Appoint members as required considering equitable representation from all program and regional areas to all standing and special committees of the Assembly, and fill any committee vacancies as directed by Council.

b. Solicit members for potential committee appointments.

c. Initiate, conduct, receive and certify Council elections, and forward the results to the secretary and council for notification and approval.

b. Personnel Committee

1. Membership. Consists of ten members of the Assembly (including the past Chair) and the Associate Vice President - Programs, ex-officio, non-voting. Members are appointed by the Rules and Elections Committee to represent program areas as equally as possible and include a minimum of two from each CE region, and a CE Specialist. Members must have been an academic appointee in California Cooperative Extension for at least three years prior to serving on this committee.

2. Duties.

a. Reviews criteria and policies concerning:
1) Appointments, 2) personnel evaluations, 3) promotions and merit advancements, and 4) other personnel matters affecting Assembly members.

b. Makes recommendations on appointments to personnel review committees concerned with performance reviews.

c. Provides for the training and supervision of the review committees.

d. Monitors the promotion and review process to assure the equitable treatment of Assembly membership.

- e. Is authorized to confer with appropriate University administration in matters concerning academic appointments in Cooperative Extension.
 - c. Program Committee
 - 1. Membership. Consists of five members of the Assembly, one from each CE region, one specialist and the past chair, appointed by the Rules and Elections Committee.
 - a. Reviews Cooperative Extension programs as requested by DANR administration or Council.
 - b. May identify and study programmatic areas of special concern as defined by the Council.
 - c. Is authorized to study FTE and budget allocations to the various CE program areas.
 - d. Administers and approves travel funds for approved professional society meetings.
 - e. Manages, solicits and selects recipients of awards and honors as directed by Council.
 - d. BENEFITS COMMITTEE
 - 1. Membership – consists of one member from each region and campus selected and appointed by the rules and elections committee.
 - 2. Duties
 - a. Monitor and review the benefits, rights and privileges accorded to the assembly membership.
 - b. Solicit and receive suggestions, concerns and comments from the assembly membership.
 - c. Pursue with administration means to improve, clarify, add or modify the benefits and privileges of the assembly.
 - d. The committee shall make written recommendations to the council for its' consideration.
- D. Special Committees
- 1. May be established by Council as required to conduct its business, shall be appointed by the Rules and Elections Committee.
 - 2. Has the authority to perform such duties as designated at the time of its appointment. Shall not be appointed to perform any duties assigned to a standing committee.
 - 3. Shall continue only until the following June 30 unless: (a) a definite term is specified, or (b) it is continued or dismissed by action of the Council.
 - 4. The final reports of special committees will be presented to the Assembly Council by a date specified by the President.
 - 5. Shall be constituted of members of the Assembly. May also include, no more than one-third of its membership, persons who are not members of the Assembly.
 - 6. A majority of the membership constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.
 - 7. Meetings may be scheduled at the call of the respective chairs and the approval of the Assembly President.

E. Executive Committee

1. Membership.
Consists of the President, the President-Elect, past president, one regional chair, one campus chair, and council secretary. Regional and campus chairs representing the executive council shall be selected at the first meeting of the council.
2. Duties
 - a. Authorized to act on behalf of the Assembly on issues, matters and concerns affecting the Council or Assembly when immediate actions, decisions, or recommendations are required.
 - b. Informs the members of the Assembly within thirty (30) days following a specific action. Must be in writing or orally at an Assembly or Council meeting, whichever is first.
 - c. Reviews the Council's budget request prepared by the president/elect and makes recommendations to the Council concerning budget requests and allocations.

X. PROCEDURES

A. General Provisions. In the conduct of their affairs, committees will adhere to the procedures specified whenever these procedures are applicable.

B. Legislative Year. Begins July 1 and ends June 30.

C. Elections and Balloting

1. Elections will be conducted by the Rules and Elections Committee for the positions of Assembly Council President-Elect and Rules and Elections Committee representatives. Elections will be certified by the Rules and Elections Committee Chair to the council.
2. Nominations and Notice of Election. The annual election will be completed by the first day of April. By January 10, the Rules and Elections Committee shall initiate the call for nominations and make known to the Assembly the opportunity for elections by e-mail.
 - a. The notice of election shall include instructions on nomination procedures, including the requirement that each nominee must send notice that they accept the nomination to the rules and elections chair prior to being placed on the ballot. Notice that self-nominations are encouraged and accepted shall also be included.
 - b. If an open office does not receive any nominations, the rules and elections committee shall nominate additional candidates, with their agreement. In the event that only one nominee is certified for a position, that person shall be appointed by the council without a vote of the assembly.
3. Balloting will be conducted as follows:
 - a. After the time for receiving nominations has expired, the Rules and Elections Chair will send to the eligible members of the Assembly an electronic ballot containing, the names of those

persons properly nominated. The working titles and locations of each nominee will be listed after the name. Instructions for marking and returning the ballot to the Rules and Elections Committee by a specified date will accompany the ballots, as well as notification that individual ballots will be kept confidential, with names separated from ballot upon receipt by the rules and elections committee. Ballots will include a provision for validation. A ballot on which more names are marked than the number of vacancies will be void.

- b. The nominee who receives the plurality of votes wins the election. Tie votes will be decided by lot, drawn by the Rules and Elections Committee Chair. In an election with different length of terms, nominees receiving the plurality of votes will be declared elected to the longer term of office, in order of their total votes.
- c. Each properly nominated candidate shall be requested to submit an optional statement including biographical information and intentions for contributions to Academic Assembly Council. Each statement shall maintain a professional tone and shall not exceed one-half page with one-inch margins and 10-point font. Statements shall be attached to the electronic ballot.
- d. Write-in votes may be cast on official ballots during the official voting period. In the event that a write-in candidate receives the most votes, he/she must be given the option to decline the office. If he/she declines, the person with the next greatest number of votes, who is willing to serve, wins the election.

- 4. When questions other than the election of members of the Assembly are submitted to a ballot, such balloting shall be conducted in accordance with the procedures prescribed above so far as they are applicable, except the Council Secretary shall prepare the materials for inclusion on the ballot. The Rules and Elections Committee shall certify the balloting. When ballots are sent to the voters, all relevant texts and a brief summary of the arguments pro and con shall accompany them. In certifying the results of the balloting, the number of affirmative votes, the number of negative votes, and/or invalid votes, if any, shall be reported to the Assembly membership.

D. Provisions for Recall and non-performance. A recall election for any elected or appointed officer, representative, or committee member must be held when a signed petition is presented to the council by 50 members of the Assembly for recall of statewide officers, and 20 members of that region for recall of a Region or Campus representative.

- 1. Region/campus, officers or standing committee members may be removed from office for non-performance of their position by a 2/3 vote of the council.
 - A. Non-performance is defined as missing two consecutive council meetings without approval of the council president. Members removed for non-performance shall be replaced by the rules and elections committee and shall serve the remaining term of the

removed member.

E. Rules of Order

1. Order of Business. Unless suspended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members present, meetings of the Assembly, and Council, function under Robert's Rules of Order unless specifically provided for in the By-Laws.

F. Agenda and Minutes

1. Call to Meetings. The Secretary shall send the call for all meetings of the Assembly and Council, with the agenda and other pertinent information, to all appropriate members. The call to meetings must be sent in advance as prescribed in VI. C. and VII.D 1 and 2. The call for a special meeting will include the reasons for the meeting.
2. Minutes. Regional/Campus Chairs will be sent minutes of the meetings of Assembly Council within 45 days for distribution to Regions and Campuses.

G. Modification of By-Laws Changes

1. Modifications of the By-Laws may be proposed by:
 - a. A petition signed by at least 25 members of the Assembly or;
 - b. A motion duly seconded and passed at any meeting of the Assembly Council.
2. The Assembly or Council cannot take final action on any modification of the By-Laws unless the proposed change has been given to all Assembly members at least two weeks before action is taken, as described in section 3 below.
3. By-Laws of the Assembly will be modified:
 - a. By a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Council except that on a petition signed by 25 Assembly members the proposed modification will be submitted to the Assembly membership by mail ballot or,
 - b. by a majority vote of the members at any Assembly meeting or;
 - c. by a majority affirmative vote of those members returning a mail ballot.
4. The Council Secretary shall supervise all modifications to the By-Laws.
5. All modifications of existing By-Laws or all newly enacted By-Laws become effective immediately upon adoption.

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