

University Council-AFT Retiree Chapter Bylaws as amended May 2021 and February 2025

Article 1. Name

This organization shall be known as the University Council-American Federation of Teachers Retiree Chapter.

Article 2. Affiliation

Section 1. The Chapter shall serve as a constituent unit of the University Council-American Federation of Teachers (UC-AFT).

Section 2. No provision of, or proposed amendment to, these Bylaws shall be in conflict with the constitution and/or bylaws of UC-AFT.

Section 3. The Chapter shall take no action that is in conflict with the policies and decisions of the membership or the executive board of the UC-AFT. The Chapter is free to take actions with respect to policies and issues upon which the UC-AFT has taken no action or has adopted a neutral or abstaining position.

Article 3. Objectives

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote membership in the chapter of eligible retirees; to support the interests of chapter members in matters such as pensions, annuities, Social Security, health benefits, and other retiree benefits; to maintain the ties of professional unity and support between working and retired members; and to provide opportunities for the exchange of information and political action to promote the interests of workers, their families, the labor movement, and the general welfare.

Article 4. Membership

Section 1. Retiree membership shall be open to all University of California retired personnel. 'Retired' includes people no longer working for the University of California, whether or not vested in or collecting retirement benefits, and people in the retirement program who have been recalled to teach and/or on emeritus status. **Retired AFT members from other locals may join, due to geographic relocation or other compelling reasons, upon approval of the majority of the executive board.** (added 2025)

Section 2. Retention of membership in good standing shall be determined by the payment of all previously assessed dues by May 1 of each year, provided that members who have not already paid such dues be notified in writing fifteen days in advance of the amount of dues owed.

Article 5. Dues and Chapter Funds

Section 1. The amount of annual Chapter dues shall be established by the Chapter Executive Board (the chapter officers). Dues shall be waived for retiree members who are paying union dues on payroll deduction while teaching on recall and/or emeritus status within the year in question.

Section 2. The Chapter shall have the right to engage in other legitimate forms of fundraising.

Section 3. Checks drawn on the Chapter's accounts shall be signed by the Chapter treasurer or another officer of the Chapter. At least two officers shall be authorized to sign checks and have password access to electronic account records.

Article 6. Election of Officers

Section 1. Officers shall be elected no later than June of odd years. Terms of office shall be two years commencing on July 1 of odd years, except that the officers elected in the first election shall take office immediately for a term that expires June 30, 2019. The officers elected shall be: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. An election committee shall be appointed consisting of at least two members in good standing of UC-AFT; at least one of them shall be a retiree. The elections committee shall elect its chair. Members seeking office may not serve on the committee.

Section 3. Thirty days prior to the election, the committee shall notify all members of the opening of nominations and deadline for nominations, the offices to be filled, and the date of the election. Nominations will be collected and confirmed by any reasonable method.

Section 4. At least fifteen days prior to the election, the committee shall notify all members of the candidates and the date of the election in accordance with any applicable legal requirements.

Section 5. The election shall be by secret ballot, with procedure to be determined by the election committee. Records shall be kept and challenges addressed in accordance with any applicable legal requirements.

Section 6. A petition signed by forty-five percent of the membership alleging bylaws violations and/or fiduciary breach and/or acts clearly detrimental to the chapter shall be sufficient to trigger a recall election to be supervised by an election committee formed in accordance with the procedure described above.

Section 7. If an office becomes vacant, the remaining members of the Executive Board may appoint an interim replacement to serve until the next scheduled election.

Article 7: Election of Council representatives

Section 1. The President shall serve as one of the Co-Chairs at Council meetings.

Section 2. The second Co-Chair and as many additional representatives to which the chapter is entitled under the statewide Constitution, shall be elected to two-year terms at the same time the officers are elected. **The second Co-Chair is considered an officer per other provisions of these bylaws referring to an executive board or committee.**

(added 2021)

Section 3. Nominations may be made to one pool for second Co-Chair and any additional representatives. Since the Co-Chairs must be from two different units (17 and 18), if members of both units are nominated for President, then the member receiving the highest number of votes from the unit other than that of the President-elect, will serve as Co-Chair. The additional representative position(s) will go to the member(s) receiving the otherwise overall highest number of votes.

Section 4. An individual member may therefore be nominated for both President and second Co-chair, but must choose one or the other position if elected to both.

Section 5. The other officers may also be nominated, and serve, as Council representatives.

Section 6. Any Council representative may designate any other member to serve in their stead and vote their proxy, at any meeting the Council representative is unable to attend.

Such proxy representatives, in the case of the two Co-Chairs, must be from the same unit as the co-chair making the designation.

Article 8. Miscellaneous provisions

Section 1. The duties of the officers shall be those reasonably associated with their titles, and duties may be shared among the officers as informally agreed from time to time. These officers shall comprise the Executive Committee, which will conduct all business affairs of the Chapter between meetings, make policy recommendations for consideration by the general membership, interpret the Chapter bylaws, and perform all other usual and necessary functions of an Executive Committee. A majority of the Executive Committee, including the President, shall constitute a quorum for Executive Committee business.

Section 2. Site reps shall be sought and appointed by the president with the assistance of the executive committee for each of the campuses, for the purpose of acting as liaison between local retirees and the campus local's staff and union members. There may be more than one site rep per campus.

Section 3. Committees may be appointed by the president for any duration and for any purpose reasonably related to the objectives of the organization.

Section 4. Interpretation of the requirements of these bylaws shall be governed by an understanding that members reside in widely disparate geographical locations, and that the chapter's business may be reasonably conducted so much as possible by electronic communication, including but not limited to meetings by teleconference and online voting.

Section 5. A quorum at a Chapter meeting and for all chapter voting shall consist of at least 5 members in good standing, or 5% of the members in good standing, whichever is greater, and shall include at least two officers.

Article 9. Amendments

Section 1. Amendments and additions to these bylaws may be proposed by a majority of the Board, or no fewer than 10 percent of the members.

Section 2. A proposed amendment may be presented to the membership by any reasonable means, with sufficient time allowed for discussion and voting, and must be approved by 2/3 of those voting, and subject to the quorum requirement in Article ~~7.~~8.

Article 10. Dissolution

Upon dissolution, all assets of the Retiree Chapter will go to UC-AFT.