



ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
January 15, 2026
Minutes of Meeting

I. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Pursuant to the call, the Assembly of the Academic Senate met on Thursday, January 15, 2026. Academic Senate Chair Ahmet Palazoglu presided and called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm. Senate Executive Director Monica Lin called the roll of Assembly members and confirmed a quorum. Attendance is listed in Appendix A of these minutes.

II. MINUTES

ACTION: The Assembly approved the minutes of October 9, 2025.

ACTION: The Assembly approved the minutes of November 20, 2025.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENATE LEADERSHIP

- **Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair**
- **Susannah Scott, Vice Chair**

Federal Investigations: Federal proceedings involving UC are active, but there have been no new developments beyond a November 2025 federal court injunction preventing the federal government from imposing fines or withholding grants to UC. UC leadership has maintained its position of not initiating litigation and instead seeking good-faith dialogue with federal authorities.

UCAD Plus: UCAD Plus, the successor to the Senate’s Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions ([UCAD](#)), was launched in November 2025. It includes Senate members and senior administrators from every campus and is overseen by a joint steering committee. Updates and workgroup charges are available on the [UCAD Plus website](#). In parallel, UCAD is moving toward finalizing its report, expected later this month, which will help guide UCAD Plus’s ongoing work.

Budget: Governor Newsom’s January budget proposal includes \$5.2 billion in state general fund support for UC, an increase of approximately \$350 million (about 7%) in ongoing funding.

Labor Relations: Agreements between UC and UPTe and the California Nurses Association helped avert strikes in fall 2025, and the University recently announced a one-month contract extension with UAW while negotiations continue. UAW Local 4811 plans to hold an authorization vote in February 2026 for a potential unfair labor practice strike. The Academic Senate is working with systemwide Academic Affairs to prepare guidance for faculty in the event of a strike.

Math Preparation: A November 2025 UCSD Senate–administration [report](#) on first-year student preparedness raised concerns about declining math readiness among entering students. The report received significant public attention, and Senate leadership and the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) are discussing next steps with the San Diego Senate Division.

PUDP: Senate Vice Chair and PUDP Co-Chair Scott noted that the Task Force on the Performance of Undergraduate Degree Programs (PUDP) is developing an assessment framework for undergraduate degree quality, with particular attention to online programs. An interim report is expected by the end of winter quarter in 2026.

Discussion highlights:

- An Assembly member questioned UC’s decision not to pursue litigation related to federal actions, noting that faculty-led litigation had produced favorable outcomes and suggesting closer coordination with faculty organizations. Chair Palazoglu responded that UC’s approach reflects a strategic decision by leadership to avoid litigation, while recognizing that faculty associations play an important role.
- A member asked about the scope of online programs at UC. Vice Chair Scott noted that while online courses are increasingly common, currently there is only one approved fully online undergraduate major in the UC system. However, interest from Regents and administrators is growing, and the Senate continues to emphasize careful, quality-focused oversight of online programs.
- Several members expressed concern about the potential UAW labor action, particularly the lack of clarity around timing and the implications for instruction and staffing. Chair Palazoglu acknowledged the uncertainty and noted that guidance for faculty is being developed.

IV. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Council

▪ Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair

1. Amendments to Academic Personnel Manual Sections 015 and 016 [Action]

Chair Palazoglu introduced proposed revisions to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) - 015 (*The Faculty Code of Conduct*) and 016 (*University Policy on Faculty Conduct and the Administration of Discipline*) and the accompanying systemwide faculty discipline guidelines, noting that the revisions form part of [Regents Policy 7401](#) and will be considered by the Regents at their January 21, 2026 meeting. He reviewed the background leading to the proposals, including the August 2024 directive to review policies related to expressive activities for compliance with [California Senate Bill 108](#), and a subsequent Regents’ request for a review of the faculty discipline process that was prompted by concerns about timeliness and consistency.

Chair Palazoglu described the extensive joint Senate–administration review and consultation process, which included multiple iterations of a joint workgroup, consultation with campus Privilege and Tenure committees, engagement with Regents’ leadership, a 90-day systemwide Senate review, and additional [analysis](#) by a University Committee on Privilege and Tenure (UCPT) workgroup. He emphasized that the final proposed language reflects and incorporates [feedback](#) from the systemwide review and preserves faculty self-governance. The amendments are intended to improve the clarity, consistency, and timeliness of the faculty disciplinary process while preserving core principles of due process, academic freedom, and Senate authority. Key elements of the revised APM language include:

- Establishment of a Systemwide Reserve Privilege and Tenure Pool, coordinated by UCPT, to ensure timely formation of hearing committees.
- Incorporation of clear, defined timeframes for initial assessments, investigations, filing of charges, and appointment of hearing committees, including provisions for good cause extensions as defined in Academic Senate Bylaw [336](#).
- Clarification that discipline calibration guidelines apply only after a finding of a policy violation.
- Revisions to mitigating and aggravating factors and explicit recognition of extramural speech and academic freedom protections, with relevant content integrated into the calibration guidelines.

Chair Palazoglu noted that additional Senate–administration work will continue on developing further systemwide guidance for determining policy violations in expressive activity cases, which will undergo a future 90-day systemwide review.

Discussion highlights:

- Following a motion and second, members discussed the shared governance process and the revisions made to the original proposals.
- A member asked whether the Assembly would have an opportunity to discuss and vote on forthcoming guidance on expressive activity. Chair Palazoglu clarified that the Assembly was being asked to vote only on the APM revisions at this meeting. He confirmed that the guidelines on expressive activity will return to the Assembly for consideration and a vote in summer 2026, following a systemwide review in spring 2026.

ACTION: The Assembly approved the revisions to APM - 015 and 016 by roll-call vote (47 in favor, 2 opposed, 2 abstentions).

Chair Palazoglu thanked the Assembly and acknowledged the extensive contributions of Senate committees, faculty experts, and staff, characterizing the outcome as a significant example of effective shared governance.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENIOR UNIVERSITY MANAGERS

- **James B. Milliken, President**
- **Katherine Newman, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs**
- **Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer**

Remarks from the President: President Milliken reflected on his first five months as UC President, highlighting several positive developments. He noted UC's global impact, citing the multiple Nobel Prizes awarded in 2025 to UC faculty and alumni; emphasized record enrollment, with the University surpassing 300,000 students for the first time; and referenced Governor Newsom's recent State of the State address, which highlighted UC's role in driving the state's economy and innovation.

Turning to current challenges, President Milliken discussed ongoing federal investigations and enforcement actions. He reiterated that UC rejected the proposed \$1 billion payment first proposed in August 2025, and that while the University remains open to good faith discussions with the federal government, it will not compromise its governance, academic freedom, or mission. He reported that following federal court decisions, most funding has been restored and no additional penalties imposed since August, though uncertainty remains.

President Milliken characterized the Governor's January budget proposal as a strong starting point for UC, while cautioning that budget negotiations are ongoing. He noted continuing campus-level financial pressures and uncertainty in federal funding, including potential changes to Medicare and Medicaid support. He also referenced the Regents' recent renewal of the tuition stability plan as an important source of predictability.

President Milliken emphasized the importance of continued systemwide planning and cost containment efforts, including initiatives focused on streamlining administrative operations. He expressed support for reducing redundancy, delegating authority more effectively to campuses, and exploring both cost savings and new revenue opportunities.

Discussion highlights:

- Faculty members raised questions about the appeal of recent federal court rulings and how that uncertainty affects UC's strategy. President Milliken acknowledged the unpredictability of legal outcomes and emphasized the need for multiple contingency strategies, financial planning, and advocacy at both the state and federal levels.
- Members also raised concerns about data security and federal access to faculty and staff communications, particularly in light of recent disclosures at one UC campus. President Milliken

expressed interest in exploring whether UC's agreements with third-party service providers could be strengthened, and welcomed further input from Senate committees with relevant expertise.

- Finally, a member asked for additional details on efforts around administrative efficiencies. President Milliken noted that meaningful opportunities exist to reduce administrative complexity and improve operational effectiveness across the system, and that this work is a high priority.

Budget and Capital Finance: CFO Brostrom described the Governor's January budget proposal as a strong outcome for UC, providing \$5.2 billion in state general fund support, a \$350 million (7%) increase reflecting the 2026–27 compact increase and partial repayment of deferred funding. However, some deferrals were rolled forward, and the proposal provides no additional funding for nonresident enrollment buy-downs, which had compensated campuses for tuition revenue foregone when enrolling more California residents, leaving affected campuses at current levels. He cautioned that the proposal relies on optimistic revenue projections largely driven by capital gains. The budget includes no new capital or one-time funding.

He outlined three potential state bond measures under consideration: a UC/CSU bond, a housing bond, and a large research bond, which could help address capital and research funding needs given ongoing federal funding uncertainties.

He emphasized that UC has met or exceeded its state compact commitments, strengthening its advocacy position. He highlighted the Regents' extension of the tuition stability plan, citing improved student debt outcomes. The recent extension included a flexible additional 1% adjustment tied to the CPI (within a 5% cap) and a reduced return-to-aid rate.

He discussed systemwide administrative transformation efforts aimed at addressing structural deficits driven by rising labor and benefit costs through improved investment management, process redesign, and automation, while reducing unnecessary administrative burden on faculty and staff.

Finally, he reported that UC's AA credit ratings were reaffirmed and that a \$2.2 billion bond issuance in December was oversubscribed. UC plans a further \$2 billion bond issuance in February, largely for refinancing existing debt.

Academic Affairs: Provost Newman emphasized that despite public narratives about declining confidence in higher education, California voter surveys show overwhelming confidence in UC's research, medical, and educational missions—confidence that is reflected in the strong bond market response to UC issuances.

She reinforced the importance of UCAD Plus as a faculty-led effort, noting that the rosters of two workgroups had been expanded to ensure broad disciplinary representation and that regular progress updates to faculty would be forthcoming.

She underscored the significance of the proposed state research bond as a tool to help offset federal research funding risks and encouraged faculty engagement in advocacy through campus governmental relations offices. She also described efforts to expand international research collaborations, particularly with the United Kingdom's Russell Group and potential opportunities linked to the European Union Horizon programs, aimed at identifying shared research priorities and alternative funding sources.

She provided updates on several academic initiatives, including the Degree Plus pilot program at UCSD and UCSB, which integrates extension coursework and paid internships; the launch of Early Career Research Awards, with a first cohort expected in April 2026; and ongoing discussions with the Mellon Foundation regarding potential new support for faculty in the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

Discussion highlights:

- Members expressed interest in the UK and European research collaboration efforts. Provost Newman explained that details are still under development, but initial work is focused on aligning research priorities, bringing principal investigators together, and exploring funding mechanisms.
- A member suggested exploring tri-institutional and Global South research partnerships, particularly in the humanities and social sciences. Provost Newman welcomed these ideas and expressed interest in pursuing a broad range of international collaboration opportunities. She invited faculty to share leads with her office.
- In response to questions about graduate student labor negotiations, Provost Newman indicated that a communication to faculty will be issued next week. She expressed cautious optimism about the negotiations, while acknowledging ongoing challenges related to economic proposals.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF NAMES OF FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND STAFF TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Assembly resumed consideration of a petition-initiated resolution concerning the University’s disclosure of personally identifiable information to the U.S. Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights (OCR) during federal civil rights investigations. The Assembly discussed the resolution at its November 20, 2025 special meeting, and with time expiring, voted to postpone further consideration to the next regular meeting in January 2026. The amended resolution and a pending proposed amendment were therefore returned as unfinished business. The Assembly resumed discussion in the same parliamentary posture in which the item had been postponed.

The Assembly first considered a pending motion, made and seconded on November 20, to delete the final five “Be it further resolved” paragraphs of the resolution—those following the clause endorsing and adopting the Academic Council statement. A secondary amendment was then introduced to add language urging advance notification to individuals prior to the disclosure of personally identifiable information. The chair, with confirmation from the parliamentarian, ruled that the Assembly must consider the secondary amendment before returning to the primary amendment. The proposed wording of the secondary amendment was:

“Be it further resolved that the Assembly of the Academic Senate of the University of California urges the UC Office of the President and the UC Board of Regents to inform individuals in advance of the disclosure of their personally identifiable information.”

A motion to adopt the secondary amendment was made and seconded. Discussion followed, during which members sought clarification regarding the interaction between the secondary and primary amendments and the effect of adopting one without the other. With guidance from the parliamentarian, the chair ruled that the Assembly must vote on the secondary amendment as written, prior to any further modification.

The secondary amendment passed with 41 Assembly members voting in favor and 2 against.

Under parliamentary guidance, the Assembly then voted on the primary amendment, which now consisted of deleting the five original concluding paragraphs of the resolution and inserting the newly adopted notification paragraph in their place.

The primary amendment passed with 35 Assembly members voting in favor and 9 against.

A motion was made and seconded to consider further amendments to the newly added paragraph:

“Be it further resolved that the Assembly of the Academic Senate of the University of California urges the UC Office of the President and the UC Board of Regents to inform individuals in advance of the

disclosure of their personally identifiable information upon the request for such information from the federal government.”

Discussion highlights:

- Supporters of further amendment argued that limiting the language to requests “from the federal government” was too narrow and could exclude other disclosure contexts that might raise concerns about privacy, due process, and academic freedom. They emphasized the advisory nature of the resolution and favored broader guidance to UC leadership. Opponents cautioned that removing the reference to the federal government could unintentionally expand the scope of the resolution beyond the specific circumstances that prompted it, potentially creating ambiguity about its intent and application. Some expressed concern that broader language could dilute the resolution’s focus or introduce uncertainty about existing disclosure practices.

The Assembly then considered a specific amendment to delete the phrase “from the federal government,” thereby broadening the advisory language to read: “...to *inform individuals in advance of the disclosure of their personally identifiable information upon the request for such information.*”

After discussion, the Assembly approved the amendment in a roll call vote with 22 voting in favor, 21 against, and 2 abstentions.

Motion to Extend Time

As the meeting approached its scheduled end, a motion was made and seconded to extend the meeting in order to complete consideration of the resolution.

The motion passed with 30 Assembly members voting in favor out of 41 present (73%), meeting the two-thirds threshold required to extend time.

Loss of Quorum

Following the extension vote, continued discussion revealed growing confusion about the procedural posture and the final form of the resolution. Attendance continued to decline. A quorum check confirmed that the Assembly had lost quorum before a final vote on adoption of the resolution could be taken. The meeting was adjourned. As a result, the resolution was not adopted and will return to the Assembly as unfinished business at the next regular meeting in February 2026.

- VI. SPECIAL ORDERS [NONE]**
- VIII. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES [NONE]**
- IX. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS [NONE]**
- VII. UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE REPORT [NONE]**
- X. NEW BUSINESS [NONE]**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm
Minutes Prepared by: Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director, Academic Senate
Attest: Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Chair
Attachments: Appendix A – Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of January 15, 2026

**Appendix A – 2025-2026 Assembly Attendance Record
Meeting of January 15, 2026**

President of the University:

James B. Milliken

Oliver Eng

Veronica Vieira

Academic Council Members:

Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair
Susannah Scott, Vice Chair
Thomas Philip, Vice Chair, UCB (alt for Mark Stacey, Chair)
Katheryn Russ, Chair, UCD
Jane Stoever, Chair, UCI
Megan McEvoy, Chair, UCLA (absent)
Kevin Mitchell, Chair, UCM
Kenneth Barrish, Chair, UCR
Rebecca Jo Plant, Chair, UCSD
Errol Lobo, Chair, UCSF (absent)
Rita Raley, Chair, UCSB
Matthew McCarthy, Chair, UCSC
David Volz, Chair, BOARS
Partho Ghosh, Chair, CCGA (absent)
Gareth Funning, UCAADE Vice Chair (alt for Kristen Holmquist, Chair)
Nael Abu-Ghazaleh, Chair, UCAP
Catherine Sugar, Chair, UCEP
Sasha Sher, Vice Chair, UCFW (alt for Karen Bales, Chair)
James Weatherall, UCORP Chair
Alyssa Brewer, Vice Chair, UCPB (alt for Robert Brosnan, Chair)

Berkeley (5)

Doris Bachtrog
Chris Hoofnagle
Hannah Ginsborg
Tyrone Hayes
Daniel Sargent

Davis (6)

Linda Bisson
Rachael Goodhue
Niels Gronbech-Jensen (absent)
Kristin Lagattuta
Walter Leal
Sanjai Parikh

Irvine (4)

Yousef Al-Bulushi (absent)
German Andres Enciso

Los Angeles (7)

Christopher Colwell
Ronald D. Hays
Jody Kreiman
Reynaldo Macias
Moritz Meyer-ter-Vehn
Anna Barbara Moscicki (absent)
Robert Zeithammer

Merced (1)

Shilpa Khatri

Riverside (2)

Marcus Kaul
Manuela Martins-Green

San Diego (5)

Marianna Alperin
Christina Gremel
Randy Hampton (absent)
Britta Larsen
Julia Ortony

San Francisco (5)

Ana Delgado
Jennifer James
Leigh Kimberg
Kewchang Lee
Margaret Wallhagen

Santa Barbara (3)

Eileen Boris
Christopher Kruegel (absent)
Lisa Parks

Santa Cruz (2)

Melissa Caldwell
Roger Schoenman

Secretary/Parliamentarian

Katherine Yang (UCSF)