



ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

April 9, 2026

Minutes of Meeting

I. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Pursuant to the call, the Assembly of the Academic Senate met on Thursday, April 9, 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 February 12, 2026.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENATE LEADERSHIP

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

Labor Agreement: UC and UAW reached new contract agreements for academic and professional staff employees on March 14, 2026. The agreements cover multiple UAW units: academic student employees (ASEs), research and public service professionals, and student services and advising professionals. The ASE agreements include wage increases and expanded benefits and maintain a clear distinction between academic requirements and employment, preserving faculty authority over academic matters.

In his [remarks](#) to the Regents in March 2026, Chair Palazoglu highlighted concerns that rising labor costs and declining numbers of TAs and GSRs may pose a significant challenge to UC's research mission, particularly in STEM fields. Senate leadership is working with UCOP to address these issues.

Expressive Activities Task Force: The timeline for the joint Senate-administration Task Force on Expressive Activities has been extended to allow for more thorough deliberation. The task force is charged with developing systemwide guidelines for evaluating potential violations of the Faculty Code of Conduct in relation to extramural and intramural speech. Recommendations are now expected in July, with a systemwide review to follow in fall 2026.

UCAD Plus: The [UCAD Plus](#) Task Force workgroups are developing recommendations across five areas aimed at strengthening the University's resilience to financial and operational disruptions. This work includes scenario planning, data collection, and identifying strategies such as cross-campus collaborations, flexible instructional models, and approaches to sustaining the research enterprise.

Administrative Transformation Initiative: UC has launched a systemwide Administrative Transformation Initiative to identify efficiencies and new revenue opportunities, in coordination with UCAD Plus. Efforts focus on areas such as budget practices, the use of restricted funds, administrative processes, and the role of systemwide coordination.

ICAS Legislative Day: The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates ([ICAS](#)) held its annual Legislative Day meeting in Sacramento on March 12, during which Senate leaders from the three segments met with state legislators and staff to discuss issues such as transfer pathways, student basic needs, and the Common Course Numbering (CCN) initiative. ICAS raised concerns about proposed legislation affecting the CCN that may impede intersegmental progress, infringe on academic freedom, and erode the segmental differentiation as outlined in the California Master Plan for Higher Education.

IV. Special Orders
A. Consent Calendar

The Assembly considered UCLA’s request for variances to Senate Regulations [784](#), [780](#), [900](#), [810](#), and [740](#). The variances were identified during a divisional audit of regulations and reflect previously existing differences that had not been formally recorded in systemwide [Appendix III](#) of the Manual of the Systemwide Academic Senate. The relevant systemwide committees ([UCRJ](#), [UCEP](#), and [CCGA](#)) reviewed the variances and raised no concerns.

ACTION: The Assembly approved the variances.

V. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Council

▪ **Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair**

1. Nomination and Election of the 2026-2027 Assembly Vice Chair

The Assembly conducted the election for the 2026–27 Assembly vice chair in accordance with [Senate Bylaw 110A](#). Chair Palazoglu presented Amani Nuru-Jeter, Professor of Community Health Sciences and Epidemiology at UC Berkeley, as the Academic Council’s nominee for 2026-27 Assembly vice chair and 2027-28 chair. At Chair Palazoglu’s invitation, Professor Nuru-Jeter made a statement regarding her background, qualifications, and priorities.

Professor Nuru-Jeter addressed the Assembly, noting her prior service as vice chair and chair of the Berkeley Division and emphasizing the importance of shared governance, faculty leadership, and collaboration across the University. She underscored key challenges and priorities, including strengthening shared governance, addressing UC’s fiscal health, supporting quality undergraduate and graduate education, improving transfer pathways, sustaining the research enterprise, rebuilding trust across UC constituencies, and advancing student basic needs.

Following an opportunity for questions and discussion, Professor Nuru-Jeter briefly left the meeting. With no additional nominations from the floor and no objections raised, the Assembly conducted a voice vote and elected Professor Nuru-Jeter as vice chair for 2026–27 and chair for 2027–28.

ACTION: The Assembly elected Professor Nuru-Jeter as 2026–27 Assembly Vice Chair.

2. Ratification of 2026 Oliver Johnson Awardees

Chair Palazoglu stated that the Oliver Johnson Award for Distinguished Leadership in the Academic Senate is presented every other year to a Senate member or members in recognition of lifetime service to the Academic Senate, outstanding and creative contributions to faculty governance, and exceptional abilities in working with different University constituents. The award is governed by procedures adopted by the Academic Council, in which each Senate division is asked to nominate a candidate and the University Committee on Committees selects two names to forward to Council. Council then selects an awardee or awardees from the two nominations, and asks the Assembly to

ratify the choice. This year, Council voted to honor UC San Diego Professor Emeritus Robert Horwitz and UC Los Angeles Professor Emeritus Adrienne Lavine.

ACTION: The Assembly ratified the selection of Professors Horwitz and Lavine as the 2026 recipients of the Oliver Johnson Award.

VI. Announcements by Senior University Managers

- **James B. Milliken, President**
- **Katherine S. Newman, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs**

Provost Newman reported on efforts to expand UC's international research collaborations, including meetings in the United Kingdom and Europe with university and research leaders to advance partnerships in areas where federal support is declining, such as climate change, public health, and clean energy. She expressed concern about increasing federal interference in academic programs, citing developments affecting the Fulbright Program. She also provided an update on a new UC grant program supporting early career faculty, noting that award decisions are expected soon. She highlighted the progress of UCAD Plus workgroups in developing academic and administrative innovations in response to fiscal and operational challenges. She cited the Global Language Network as an example of cross-campus collaboration that enables shared instruction in low-enrollment languages through a mix of in-person and remote modalities. Finally, she noted the upcoming joint meeting between UCAD Plus and the Administrative Transformation Initiative.

Discussion highlights

- A question was raised about recent changes to the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP) and the extent of Senate consultation; Provost Newman responded that some changes were made to align with campus practices and external legal guidance.
- A member noted the need for resources to support cross-campus collaboration, particularly for shared courses and graduate programs that combine remote instruction with periodic in-person meetings for students and faculty; Provost Newman expressed interest in developing funding mechanisms to support those kinds of activities.

President Milliken noted the appointment of four new members of the Board of Regents. He shared updates from meetings with state and federal leaders, noting that there is continued strong support for UC, but also concern about projected state budget deficits in the coming years. He expressed cautious optimism about the 2026-27 budget and noted ongoing discussions and advocacy around potential state bond measures, including those related to research and student housing.

He described continued federal challenges, including multiple investigations involving UC campuses, particularly related to medical school admissions, and emphasized that UC is responding while seeking to protect its interests. He highlighted uncertainty in federal research funding but noted some bipartisan support in Congress. He also pointed to artificial intelligence as a rapidly evolving issue with significant implications for UC's teaching, research, and operations.

Discussion highlights:

- Questions were raised about UC's defense of medical school admissions practices and the handling of requests for sensitive data in federal investigations; President Milliken noted that UC is providing only anonymized data where required.
- A member raised concerns about the lack of departmental input in systemwide labor negotiations involving a unique side letter agreement; President Milliken indicated he was not familiar with the specific case, given the collective bargaining agreement covers thousands of workers across hundreds of departments.
- Several members commented on a recently announced settlement between UC Berkeley and the Louis D. Brandeis Center for Human Rights Under Law regarding allegations of antisemitism.

Members expressed differing views on the settlement and its implications, including concerns about definitions of antisemitism, potential impacts on academic freedom and faculty authority over curriculum. A member also emphasized the importance of ensuring that campus policies are consistent with academic freedom and shared governance; President Milliken acknowledged the comments.

- Concerns were raised about consultation with the Senate on changes to the President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program; President Milliken acknowledged that consultation may vary depending on the issue and indicated he would review the matter.

VII. Updates from UC Legal

▪ Allison Woodall, Deputy General Counsel

Deputy General Counsel Woodall provided updates on several litigation matters involving or affecting the University. First, she reviewed a recent Department of Justice lawsuit against UCLA under Title VII alleging a hostile work environment based on antisemitism, noting the case is in its early stages. She also described an admissions case involving UCLA, in which the Department of Justice has intervened. She reported on the American Association of University Professors litigation challenging federal actions to suspend research funding, noting that a preliminary injunction remains in place preventing the government from terminating grants without following required legal procedures. The case is expected to continue through at least 2026. She also discussed a case challenging new federal requirements for reporting detailed UC admissions data, explaining that a court has issued a preliminary injunction blocking implementation of the rule due to concerns about its legality and burden on institutions.

Discussion highlights:

- A member sought clarification on whether UC anticipates additional lawsuits related to medical school admissions; Deputy General Counsel Woodall clarified that there is one active case, while other matters referenced by President Milliken remain at the investigation stage.
- A member asked about the legal considerations in a recent settlement involving UC Berkeley and allegations of antisemitism; Deputy General Counsel Woodall indicated she could not comment on the specifics of the settlement process or legal strategy.
- A member asked whether UC Legal had considered a recent AAUP report related to the use of civil rights law in addressing antisemitism complaints, and raised broader concerns about the impact of federal actions on academic freedom and potential self-censorship on campuses; Deputy General Counsel Woodall indicated she was aware of the report but could not comment on its role in UC’s legal strategy.

VIII. University and Faculty Welfare Report

▪ Karen Bales, Chair, University Committee on Faculty Welfare ([UCFW](#))

Chair Bales reported on UCFW’s 2025-26 activities, noting that UCFW continues to advise the Senate and administration on faculty welfare and working conditions, including salaries, benefits, housing, and retirement. She highlighted consultations with UCOP units on labor-related developments, particularly UAW academic student employee negotiations, as well as discussions on the President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, faculty housing initiatives, and the release of personally identifiable information to the federal government. She also noted UCFW’s participation in UCAD and UCAD Plus and its role in preparing for the forthcoming review of the UC systemwide policing policies (also known as the “Gold Book”).

She summarized the work of UCFW’s two task forces. The [Health Care Task Force](#) has been working with Systemwide Human Resources on strategies to address rising costs, access, and long-term affordability, and is organizing a systemwide healthcare summit. It has also examined care at

campuses without medical centers and submitted recommendations on gender-affirming care. The [Task Force on Investment and Retirement](#) has focused on understanding and improving the methodology for UC's total remuneration study, retirement plan issues, and responses to a recent security breach affecting pension distributions.

Discussion highlights:

- A member asked about opportunities for input on the Gold Book review; Chair Bales confirmed that a public comment portal is available through the systemwide Community Safety website.
- A member asked about the status of academic freedom committees at the campus level and whether they are structured as subcommittees of faculty welfare; it was noted that while a systemwide Academic Freedom committee exists as a separate body, campus structures vary.

IX. REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES [NONE]

X. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS [NONE]

XI. NEW BUSINESS [NONE]

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm

Minutes Prepared by: Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director, Academic Senate

Attest: Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Chair

Attachments: Appendix A – Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of April 9, 2026

**Appendix A – 2025-2026 Assembly Attendance Record
Meeting of April 9, 2026**

President of the University:

James B. Milliken

Academic Council Members:

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

Berkeley (5)

Doris Bachtrog
Ron Cohen (alt for Chris Hoofnagle)
Thomas Philip (alt for Hannah Ginsborg)
Tyrone Hayes
Jelani Nelson (alt for Daniel Sargent)

Davis (6)

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

Irvine (4)

Yousef Al-Bulushi
German Andres Enciso
Javier Diaz Alonso (alt for Oliver Eng)
Veronica Vieira

Los Angeles (7)

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

Merced (1)

Shilpa Khatri/Sidra Goldman-Mellor

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
Melike Pezmecki (alt for Kewchang Lee)
Margaret Wallhagen

Santa Barbara (3)

Eileen Boris
Christopher Kruegel
Lisa Parks

Santa Cruz (2)

Melissa Caldwell
Jeremy Hourigan (alt for Roger Schoenman)

Secretary/Parliamentarian

Katherine Yang (UCSF)