UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE
June 11, 2026
Minutes of Meeting

I. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Pursuant to the call, the Assembly of the Academic Senate met on Thursday, June 11, 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 April 9, 2026.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENATE LEADERSHIP

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

Apportionment of 2026-27 Assembly: The apportionment of Assembly representatives for the 2026-27 academic year was enclosed in the agenda. Campus representation remains unchanged from 2025–26.

Digital Accessibility Compliance: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services extended the Section 504 digital accessibility compliance deadline to May 11, 2027. UC Office of the President (UCOP) will update its Information Technology Accessibility Policy to reflect the new federal deadline while continuing to expect campuses to make progress toward accessibility compliance under existing UC policy.

Federal Investigations: The U.S. Department of Justice has filed a new Title VI lawsuit against UCLA alleging discrimination against Jewish and Israeli students and seeking injunctive relief and the potential rescission of federal grant funding.

California Master Plan: Chair Palazoglu summarized his remarks to the Regents regarding the continued relevance of California's Master Plan for Higher Education. He suggested that California should consider developing a new Master Plan for Education to address evolving workforce, research, and student success needs, and emphasized the importance of collaboration across educational segments and the Academic Senate's participation in any future deliberations.

UCAD Plus: UCAD Plus Task Force workgroups are completing their recommendations. The final UCAD Plus report is expected by the end of August 2026 and will be circulated for systemwide Senate review in the fall.

Task Force on Health Sciences Clinical Faculty Governance: President Milliken has established a joint Senate-administration task force to recommend potential mechanisms for Health Sciences Clinical faculty to participate in UC Health governance. The task force was established following the defeat of two memorials in 2025 that sought Senate membership for faculty in the Health Sciences

Clinical and Adjunct Professor series, as well as the subsequent rejection of a Senate proposal to establish an Academic Council Special Committee on Clinical Affairs.

Discussion highlights

- Assembly members raised concerns about other DOJ investigations involving UC Davis and broader federal actions affecting higher education, and their implications for academic freedom.
- Members asked how the Clinical Faculty Governance Task Force will differ from previous proposals and whether it will revisit the Senate's 2025 decision on Senate membership. Chair Palazoglu explained that the task force is not reconsidering Senate membership, but has been charged with identifying alternative mechanisms for faculty participation in UC Health governance. He noted a shared interest by the administration and Senate leadership in ensuring these faculty have an appropriate voice in UC Health governance matters.

IV. Special Orders

A. Consent Calendar

The Assembly considered UCLA's request for variances to systemwide Senate Regulation 900. The variances repeal UCLA Divisional Regulations A-304.A.4 and 452 governing expected cumulative progress requirements for undergraduate students in the College of Letters and Science and align the College's minimum progress requirements with those of other UCLA colleges/schools.

ACTION: The Assembly approved the variances.

V. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Council

- **Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair**

1. Nomination and Election of the 2026-27 University Committee on Committees (UCOC) Vice Chair

ACTION: The Assembly elected Professor Dean Mathiowetz (UCSC) as 2026-27 UCOC Vice Chair by unanimous consent.

2. Conversion of Regents Standing Orders into Bylaws

Chair Palazoglu introduced a proposal from the Office of the Regents and endorsed by the Academic Council to continue the Regents Office's efforts to modernize UC's governing documents by converting the remaining Regents' Standing Orders related to the Academic Senate and academic appointees into Regents bylaws and policies.

Deputy Chief of Staff to the Regents Clare Sheridan explained that the proposal makes no substantive policy changes but reorganizes existing provisions in the Regents' governing framework. She highlighted the creation of new Regents Policies that incorporate existing Standing Order provisions related to Senate membership, equivalent ranks and privileges, and academic units and functions; the rescission of corresponding Standing Orders; and an amendment to Regents Bylaw 40.2 clarifying the Regents' intent that the Academic Senate has the authority to determine its own membership.

ACTION: The Assembly endorsed the proposal by a vote of 49-0.

3. Revisions to Senate Bylaw 337

Chair Palazoglu introduced proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 337 endorsed by the Academic Council at their May 27, 2026 meeting. The amendments align the procedures outlined in Senate Bylaw 337 that govern early termination cases involving alleged violations of UC's Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment (SVSH) Policy with the corresponding provisions in Senate Bylaw 336, which governs disciplinary proceedings involving Senate faculty. Specifically, the revisions incorporate the Title IX evidentiary procedures and the preponderance of the evidence standard adopted by the Assembly in 2021 for faculty disciplinary cases under Bylaw 336, ensuring consistency between the two bylaws and compliance with applicable federal Title IX regulations and state law.

University Committee on Privilege and Tenure (UCPT) Chair Susan Amussen and Principal Counsel Carly Munson explained that the revisions do not alter the role of Privilege and Tenure (P&T) Committees in determining whether good cause exists for early termination, but instead apply existing legal requirements to the limited subset of Bylaw 337 cases involving alleged SVSH violations.

Discussion highlights

- Members asked for clarification about differences between Bylaws 336 and 337 and whether the revisions would diminish P&T committee authority in early termination cases. Chair Amussen and Counsel Munson explained that the purpose of Bylaw 337 remains unchanged. P&T committees will continue to determine whether good cause exists for early termination and whether required procedures were followed. The revisions modify only the evidentiary procedures applicable to the limited category of cases involving alleged SVSH violations.
- Members also asked why the revisions were needed and whether they made substantive changes beyond the evidentiary standard. Chair Amussen and Counsel Munson explained that the Assembly adopted the same Title IX evidentiary procedures and preponderance of the evidence standard for Bylaw 336 in 2021 to comply with federal regulations and California law, but the corresponding changes to Bylaw 337 were inadvertently omitted at that time. The proposal corrects the omission by incorporating the same Title IX procedures, including reliance on the Title IX hearing record while preserving the Hearing Committee's discretion to consider newly discovered or other appropriate evidence. Because Bylaw 337-related cases are rare and the amendments apply only to SVSH-related cases, the changes are expected to have limited practical impact.

ACTION: Following the defeat of a motion to postpone consideration until the next Assembly meeting, the Assembly approved the proposed revisions by the required two-thirds majority. The vote was 44-2-2 (91% in favor).

VI. Announcements by Senior Executive Leadership

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

President's Remarks

Admissions: President Milliken addressed the renewed public attention surrounding standardized testing and UC undergraduate admissions, noting the national interest generated by a UC faculty petition calling for reconsideration of the University's testing policy. He expressed appreciation for the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools' (BOARS) ongoing review of admissions policies, noting that the review will extend beyond standardized testing to broader questions of academic preparation. He indicated that the process will help inform any decisions that would ultimately be made by the Board of Regents, and that there is continued Board interest around student preparation and A-G course requirements.

State Budget and Federal Funding: President Milliken reported that the State budget process produced a favorable 2026-27 operating budget for UC but did not address UC's significant capital needs. He expressed concern about structural budget deficits on many campuses, delays in the release of federal research funding, and continuing uncertainty around federal grant support. He encouraged support for State Senator Wiener's proposed higher education bond measure as an opportunity for California to invest in UC's research enterprise.

California Master Plan: President Milliken observed that recent legislative proposals have renewed discussion about California's Master Plan for Higher Education. He noted that UC needs more discussion around defining mutual expectations and responsibilities with the State to expand 21st century educational opportunities for Californians.

Artificial Intelligence: President Milliken announced the formation of a systemwide Artificial Intelligence Steering Committee, co-chaired by Senate Chair Palazoglu, UCSD Chancellor Pradeep Khosla, and UCOP Vice President of Digital Innovation & Technology and Chief Information Officer Van Williams. The committee will develop strategic recommendations to support UC's teaching, research, and operational use of AI, while identifying opportunities for systemwide collaboration and investment. The committee's guiding principle is to ensure that AI serves people and advances the University's public mission.

Discussion highlights

- Members encouraged the AI Steering Committee to articulate a vision for how AI will enhance, rather than diminish, the quality of UC education and research. They also urged the committee to support faculty by identifying effective instructional practices, sharing campus innovations, and developing resources to help prepare students to use AI responsibly. President Milliken agreed that the committee should define UC's educational mission in an AI-enabled environment and build on successful campus initiatives.
- Members stressed that the committee should also consider the broader societal implications of AI, including algorithmic bias, environmental impacts, climate and environmental justice, surveillance, and the need to preserve critical thinking and disciplinary expertise. President Milliken acknowledged these concerns, noting that the committee will draw on expertise from across the University through topic-specific workgroups. Chair Palazoglu added that environmental impacts had been discussed during the committee's inaugural meeting.
- Members also discussed the role of standardized testing in undergraduate admissions. President Milliken emphasized that BOARS' review will consider a broad range of issues related to academic preparation and that future discussions should be informed by faculty expertise and research.
- In response to questions about the California Master Plan, President Milliken suggested that UC should give thought to what a new state compact would look like to broadly address the state's needs rather than simply rewriting the 1960 Master Plan.

Provost's Remarks

International Partnerships: Provost Newman reported on her efforts to expand UC's international research collaborations in response to federal funding reductions. These include working with campus vice chancellors for research to develop partnerships with the Russell Group in the United Kingdom, Nordic research organizations, and other European institutions to foster large-scale collaborative research projects in climate resilience, clean energy, public health, and related fields.

Degree Plus: Provost Newman noted that the new Degree Plus initiative combines undergraduate degree programs with University Extension certificates and paid internships to better prepare students for the workforce. She also described UC's efforts to qualify its Extension programs for financial aid under the new federal Workforce Pell Grant program, which would support workforce training for both recent graduates and incumbent workers.

Federal Research Funding: Provost Newman expressed concern that the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) proposed revisions to the Uniform Guidance governing federal research grants would increase political oversight of grant awards, restrict international research collaborations and publication costs, expand federal authority to suspend or terminate grants, and fundamentally alter the peer-review process that underpins federally funded research. She encouraged faculty to participate in advocacy by submitting public comments to the OMB.

Discussion highlights

- Members expressed support for the international research initiative while encouraging UC to include institutions and scholars in the Global South. Provost Newman agreed that the current partnerships are intended to be an initial step toward a broader global research network.
- Members emphasized the importance of broad faculty participation in advocacy against the proposed OMB regulations. Provost Newman agreed that broad faculty engagement would be critical to preserving the integrity of the federal research enterprise.
- Members also noted the importance of the proposed California Science and Health Research Bond (Senate Bill 895) as a means of strengthening research capacity amid uncertainty in federal funding. Provost Newman expressed strong support for the proposal.

VII. 2026-27 Budget Outlook from State Governmental Relations (SGR)

- **Seija Virtanen, Associate Director, State Budget**

2026–27 State Budget: Associate Director Virtanen reported that the governor, State Assembly, and State Senate support a 10% year-over-year increase in UC's ongoing funding, consisting of a 7% Compact funding increase and restoration of a prior 3% deferral. She noted that discussions are ongoing about the proposed funding to support replacing nonresident enrollment with California resident enrollment at UCB, UCLA, and UCSD, as well as several one-time appropriations for health professional education programs.

Legislative Update: SGR continues to monitor legislation affecting UC, including proposals that would modify the respective roles of UC, CSU, and the California Community Colleges under the Master Plan for Higher Education, as well as bills affecting labor relations and research. Associate Director Virtanen also reviewed several higher education bond proposals under consideration, including the California Science and Health Research Bond and a proposed housing bond.

Discussion highlights

- Members asked about legislation that could alter the Master Plan. Associate Director Virtanen described several proposed bills that would expand the CSU's authority to offer doctoral degrees and broaden community college authority over four-year degree programs. She offered to provide the Assembly with additional information about the proposed legislation.

VIII. Reports of Standing Committees, Continued

B. Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS)

- **Dave Volz, BOARS Chair**

1. 2026-2027 Policies and Partnerships Roadmap for First-Year Undergraduate Admissions

BOARS Chair Volz presented BOARS' 2026–27 Policies and Partnerships Roadmap, developed in response to a charge from Chair Palazoglu. The roadmap outlines a year-long process to evaluate first-year undergraduate admissions policies and strengthen partnerships with California's K-12 system. BOARS will establish two workgroups: one to examine the potential role of standardized testing in undergraduate admissions (Workgroup 1) and another to review the A-G subject requirements to determine whether they adequately prepare students for academic success at UC (Workgroup 2). The workgroups will be UC faculty-led and include ex-officio representation from CSU, K-12, and UCOP. Following review and public input, BOARS expects to transmit recommendations to the Academic Council by the end of July 2027 for systemwide Senate review in Fall 2027. Any approved changes would not take effect before the Fall 2029 admissions cycle.

Discussion highlights:

- Faculty expressed differing views about the proposed review of the A-G subject requirements. Several expressed concern that Workgroup 2 could revisit recent policy decisions about mathematics (Area C), unnecessarily reopen prior Senate deliberations, or weaken admissions standards. A member introduced a motion recommending that BOARS not convene Workgroup 2.
- Faculty opposing the motion argued that a comprehensive faculty-led review of the A-G framework is necessary to assess whether admissions requirements adequately prepare students for academic success at UC, improve consultation with K-12 and other educational partners, and preserve the Senate's authority over admissions policy.
- Chair Volz emphasized that Workgroup 2 was proposed by BOARS, not external stakeholders. He noted that its purpose is to examine whether the A-G framework can be strengthened, not to lower admissions standards. He explained that consultation with K-12 is part of BOARS' charge and that any recommendations would be developed through a faculty-led process.
- Faculty also expressed differing views about the need for a renewed review of standardized testing. Some argued that the 2020 study by the Senate's Standardized Testing Task Force had already addressed the issue, while others supported reexamining testing in light of increasing concerns about students' academic preparation and grade inflation.

ACTION: The Assembly considered a motion recommending that BOARS not convene Workgroup 2. The motion failed by a vote of 5-26-15.

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 June 11, 2026

Appendix A – 2025-2026 Assembly Attendance Record
Meeting of June 11, 2026

President of the University:
James B. Milliken

Academic Council Members:
Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair
Susannah Scott, Vice Chair
Mark Stacey, Chair, UCB
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
Rita Raley, Chair, UCSB
Matthew McCarthy, Chair, UCSC
David Volz, Chair, BOARS
Partho Ghosh, Chair, CCGA
Kristen Holmquist, Chair UCODE (absent)
Nael Abu-Ghazaleh, Chair, UCAP
Catherine Sugar, Chair, UCEP
Karen Bales, Chair, UCFW
James Weatherall, Chair, UCORP
Robert Brosnan, Chair, UCPB (absent)

Berkeley (5)
Doris Bachtrog
Chris Hoofnagle
Thomas Philip (alt for Hannah Ginsborg)
Tyrone Hayes
Daniel Sargent (absent)

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
Oliver Eng
Veronica Vieira

Los Angeles (7)
Christopher Colwell (absent)
Ronald D. Hays
Jody Kreiman (absent)
Reynaldo Macias
Moritz Meyer-ter-Vehn
Anna Barbara Moscicki
Robert Zeithammer (absent)

Merced (1)
Sidra Goldman-Mellor (alt for Shilpa Khatri)

Riverside (2)
Harry Tom (alt for Marcus Kaul)
Manuela Martins-Green

San Diego (5)
Marianna Alperin (absent)
Christina Gremel
Randy Hampton (absent)
Britta Larsen (absent)
Julia Ortony

San Francisco (5)
Stuart Gansky (alt for Ana Delgado)
Jennifer James
Leigh Kimberg
Kewchang Lee
Margaret Wallhagen

Santa Barbara (3)
Scott Hodges (atl for Eileen Boris)
Peter Bloom (alt for Christopher Kruegel)
Lisa Parks

Santa Cruz (2)
Jeremy Hourigan (alt for Melissa Caldwell)
Roger Schoenman

Secretary/Parliamentarian
Katherine Yang (UCSF)