



BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS

Meeting Minutes

February 6, 2026

In attendance: David Volz (Chair), Nicholas Mathew (Vice Chair), Gustavo Manso (UCB), Leah Hibel (UCD), Andrea De Vizcaya Ruiz (UCI) (videoconference), Kelly Kay (UCLA), Joel Spencer (UCM), Manu Sridharan (UCR), Adrian Ioana (UCSD), Michael Stryker (UCSF), Vanessa Woods (UCSB), Matthew Shahmaram (Undergraduate Student Representative), Jose Aguilar (Graduate Student Representative), Linda Darling-Hammond (President, State Board of Education), Yvette Gullatt (Vice President, Graduate, Undergraduate & Equity Affairs (GUEA)), Han Mi Yoon-Wu (Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA), Chase Fischerhall (Director, A-G & Transfer Articulation Policy, GUEA), Angelica Moore (Director, Undergraduate Admission Policy & Communications, GUEA) (videoconference), Liz Terry (Manager of Admissions Analytics, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA), Matt Reed (Senior Institutional Research & Planning Analyst, Institutional Research & Academic Planning (IRAP)) (videoconference), Laura Kertz (Senior Equity & Diversity Analyst, IRAP) (videoconference), Courtney Wilson (Institutional Research & Academic Planning Analyst, IRAP) (videoconference), Ahmet Palazoglu (Chair, Academic Senate) (videoconference), Susannah Scott (Vice Chair, Academic Senate) (videoconference), Monica Lin (Executive Director, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst, Academic Senate)

I. Executive Session

Note: Minutes were not taken during Executive Session.

II. Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda items and their priority were approved.

Action: The January 9th BOARS minutes were approved.

III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair & Susannah Scott, Vice Chair, Academic Senate

The Regents January meeting included a presentation by Chief Financial Officer Nathan Brostrom on Governor Newsom's January budget proposal for almost \$250B for UC in general fund expenditures. Among several bonds advancing in the California Assembly and Senate is Senate Bill 895 (Weiner) that would establish a foundation to support health, agriculture, and climate research. Record-breaking enrollment of more than 200K California undergraduate students and total student enrollment exceeding 300K for fall 2026 means that UC is exceeding goals in the compact with the governor for access, affordability, and student success. The Regents unanimously approved the revisions to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) policies 015 and 016, the Faculty Code of Conduct and Administration of Faculty Discipline.

Provost Newman is hosting a virtual congress on preparation on science, technology, engineering and mathematics preparation on March 9 and 10. UAW Local 4811 plans to hold an authorization vote from February 5 to 13 for an unfair labor practice strike. Chair Palazoglu and Vice Chair Scott are drafting a communication to faculty regarding strike preparation and more detailed guidance will follow if a strike is authorized. Senate leadership is monitoring the national debate about whether syllabi should be public, an issue that the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) and the University Committee on Academic Freedom may be asked to consider.

IV. Chair's Updates

Academic Council's meeting last week included consultation with President Milliken who commented on the A-G requirements, so Chair Volz plans to invite him to a BOARS meeting to discuss college preparation. During the Council meeting, Chair Volz had the opportunity to ask Associate Vice President Kathleen Fullerton from UCOP's Office of State Governmental Relations about the status of Assembly Bill 684 which would have required BOARS to have public meetings and was advised that the bill failed to move out of the Appropriations Committee. The joint BOARS memo with the UCEP and University Committee on Preparatory Education on the College Board's Evidence-Based Standard Setting process was unanimously supported and endorsed by Academic Council, but Chair Palazoglu and Vice Chair Scott have recommended a few formatting changes be made before the memo is disseminated to the divisions. Chair Volz reported that U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy from Louisiana has launched an inquiry into 35 selective colleges and universities, including UCB and UCLA, to better understand the prevalence and root causes of declines in math preparation. Senator Cassidy cites the UCSD Senate Administration Workgroup (SAWG) report on admissions as the basis for this investigation.

V. Consultation with Graduate, Undergraduate, & Equity Affairs (GUEA)

Yvette Gullatt, Vice President, GUEA & Vice Provost for Equity, Diversity & Inclusion, UCOP

Chair Volz welcomed Vice President Gullatt to the meeting and explained that GUEA's outreach and educational partnerships as well as educator programs are directly related to the goals BOARS has for enhanced engagement with the K-12 sector. Chair Volz noted the importance of BOARS having meaningful consultation with K-12 and a sense of shared responsibility across education systems in California. Vice President Gullatt indicated that Regents Policy 2106 affirms engagement in the preschool through post-secondary education systems as fundamental to UC's mission as a land-grant institution and the university has a role as a partner, not as a gatekeeper, for ensuring readiness and high standards. As a public land-grant university, UC has an obligation to provide the tools, means, and partnerships for students and schools to meet the standards for California with respect to college readiness.

Vice President Gullatt provided an overview of UC's strategies to build out academic preparation readiness and educator quality which fall into four categories. The first category, student academic preparation includes services and programs that raise student achievement, impact their aspirations, and help students understand that preparation can lead to opportunity in higher education. The second category is programs that prepare educators and provide professional development over the course of their professional lives. The third set of strategies involves work within regions, across other education segments, and with business and industry to address inequities and opportunity and focus on attainment in the region for college degrees as well as alignment of university resources with high-need, high-impact industry needs. The final category

involves UC's partnership with every school in the state through articulation which aims to improve the efficiency with which students move between educational sectors, to remove barriers, and enhance their success across the pipeline. For high school A-G requirements, there is a statewide repository of all approved courses, and at the transfer level ASSIST is the transfer information portal. Both of these are the state's official repositories for articulation.

The Vice President reiterated the shared responsibility, that UC is a collaborator with K-12 and community colleges to share research, to implement evidence-based improvements in public education, to take those findings to inform these strategies, and enhance educational policy. Research that focuses on equity across the full educational pipeline helps UC improve those strategies. Faculty research, committee reports, and studies that come out of groups like BOARS on indicators of success affect the program and partnership goals, and the studies conducted by UC faculty on college knowledge, A-G quality, and college culture inform direct interventions with students. State Board of Education (SBE) President Darling-Hammond expressed appreciation for all of UC's efforts, stating that they have a positive impact in many contexts. The educator programs might count more towards the preparation of young people for UC than almost anything else, so some thought should be given to expanding these pipelines more substantially. California has deep shortages in math teachers that undergird what kind of courses can be offered, whether courses can be taught by people who are well-prepared to teach them, and if courses have the outcomes that are desired.

Discussion: When data show that particular programs are not producing the desired outcome, they have the ability to pivot. Vice President Gullatt described the researcher-practitioner effort, UC Links (University-Community Links), which allows UC to test and experiment with good ideas and scale them out to other programs and other parts of the state. Members weighed in on the challenges related to increasing the numbers of high school teachers. The CalTeach program could be expanded to include other disciplines and degree programs with the same positive outcomes. In the past two years, SBE has worked to diversify ways to demonstrate subject matter competency more broadly.

VI. Discussion with UCSD Senate Leadership about the Senate-Administration Workgroup (SAWG) on Admissions Report

Rebecca Jo Plant, Chair, UCSD Senate; Akos Rona-Tas, Vice Chair, UCSD Senate & Co-Chair, SAWG; & Michael Holst, Chair, UCSD Mathematics Department & Member, SAWG

UCSD Mathematics Department Chair Holst provided an overview of data on student performance in math courses and explained the actions taken by the department to assess the gaps in math preparation. UCSD started seeing that a small number of students were coming with gaps in high school math in 2016 and noted an increase in 2021, and this led to the first joint Senate administration workgroup (SAWG) which released a report in January 2025. A second SAWG was formed to continue an in-depth analysis of the problem which culminated in the report published in November 2025. Department Chair Holst described the steps taken to carefully examine data and involve stakeholders, including the Academic Senate, in an effort to manage the problem responsibly. The lack of math preparation is having a negative downstream impact on student performance in their majors, and it is causing a strain on the Math Department's resources at UCSD. The UCSD Academic Senate Vice Chair explained the math index the division will be using in an effort to address the preparation challenges.

Discussion: Members expressed their opinions about the strongest predictors of student performance. The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC) maps to the Common Core Standards and the SBAC scores would be easily available to help faculty determine students' math knowledge. UCSD is rethinking the math requirements for each major and the math index will only apply to those majors which have very high math content. One recommendation is that UCSD consider how learning models might be adapted in the course of attempting to introduce better and more preparatory math. UCSD's Math Department is open to exploring best practices to help the students admitted to the campus find a path to success. The UCSD Senate Vice Chair asserted that being able to use standardized test scores for admissions would be the best solution for this campus.

A member suggested that the UCSD representatives give some thought to the assumptions made in the report such as the assumption that prerequisites work and emphasized that the deficit language the campus is applying to students is troubling. Mathematics Department Chair Holst indicated that instructors are doing all they can to counter the message sent by the deficit language but, at the same time, students in engineering courses must have certain knowledge. It is not fair that students who are far behind where they should be are put in the position of having to get up to speed in a limited amount of time. Chair Volz recommended that UCSD have its math index peer reviewed by experts. The committee discussed concerns about grade inflation, and UCSD may consider ways to adjust for this.

VII. Debrief on Institutional Research & Academic Planning's (IRAP's) Updated Analysis of A-G & Honors Courses

This topic was not discussed due to time constraints.

VIII. Consultation with GUEA & IRAP

Han Mi Yoon-Wu, Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA; Chase Fischerhall, Director, A-G & Transfer Articulation Policy, GUEA; Angelica Moore, Director, Undergraduate Admissions Policy & Communications, GUEA; Liz Terry, Manager, Admissions Analytics, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA; Matt Reed, Senior Institutional Research & Planning Analyst, IRAP; Laura Kertz, Senior Equity & Diversity Analyst, IRAP; & Courtney Wilson, Institutional Research & Academic Planning Analyst, IRAP

Chair Volz invited members to share their impressions of the discussion with the UCSD representatives about the SAWG report and math preparation and to share how campuses are handling math placement. In March, BOARS will have an initial conversation about potential systemwide changes in undergraduate admissions policy that may help address the concerns raised by UCSD.

Discussion: UCB's committee is having ongoing discussions about the UCSD SAWG report as well as the results of an informal internal survey of faculty regarding the use of standardized tests. UCSC does not measure math preparation as precisely as it is assessed at UCSD. UCR's admissions committee does not have good information for admitted students on what kind of math preparation they have based on the data currently used for admissions. UCR sees a similar lack of preparation in math that UCSD has identified. UCLA's committee has requested data related to performance in math, but the division is concerned about duplicating the efforts happening systemwide through

BOARS. Chair Volz clarified that, at the systemwide level, BOARS deals with policies around what is included in the undergraduate application and each campus determines how this information will be interpreted in its admissions process. Campuses should be collecting and analyzing their own data.

UCSB's admissions committee met with the division's math department to discuss the UCSD SAWG report and the campus is not seeing similar issues with math preparation. UCI's committee has discussed math preparation concerns with the campus's enrollment and admissions office and will begin gathering data. UCD's admissions committee has held informal conversations with the math department and learned that there are concerns about math preparedness and the effectiveness of the placement test. The SBAC is used by the California State University system for placement in math and English. UCOP receives the SBAC ELA scores for potential use in entry level writing placement, and Undergraduate Admissions sends the scores to the campus after a student has submitted their Statement of Intent to Register. UCOP's existing data sharing agreement with the Department of Education to receive SBAC scores for English could potentially be expanded to include math scores for campuses that would like to use them for placement. Members expressed interest in learning more about what the SBAC covers.

SBE President Darling-Hammond offered a broad context for the discussion about math beginning with the fact that the U.S. has done poorly in math relative to other countries for a long time. On the Programme for International Student Assessment tests, the U.S. is sixth in the world in literacy/reading and 39th in math, well below the international average. Furthermore, California scores below the U.S. average. The approach to math instruction and curriculum in other countries is very different from the high school curriculum in California. California high school districts are adopting a new curriculum and there are signs that math performance is slowly beginning to improve. BOARS might examine the articulation criteria for Area C (Mathematics) to reflect the new math curriculum being implemented across the state. The committee should keep in mind that the new curriculum has not been fully implemented so that adjustments to Area C are not made before high schools are prepared to meet any new articulation criteria. BOARS should explore the changes to curricula and instructional strategies being made across the U.S. and in different countries to identify what is producing stronger outcomes, such as mastery-based learning.

IX. New Score for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) iBT

Chair Volz reminded the members of the January discussion about the updated scale for the TOEFL internet-based test (iBT) and the need for BOARS to determine a new minimum score. The goal is to have further discussion today and vote on the new score in March.

Discussion: Associate Vice Provost Yoon-Wu shared that campus graduate admissions offices and the UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) have inquired about what Undergraduate Admissions is doing with the TOEFL score. The decision made by BOARS will influence things like qualifications for teaching assistants and qualifications for students who would participate in the UCEAP reciprocity programs on the campuses. The score set by BOARS will provide guidance to the campuses and each campus can set a higher minimum score. Members shared the input from their divisional committees on what the new score should be and there appears to be consensus that the score should be 4.5. After several years, BOARS can review the data to determine if the systemwide minimum score should be adjusted.

X. Debrief on UCLA's Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) Task Force Presentation

Members were invited to consider what information should be included in a systemwide guidance document that recommends steps for developing ADT programs including identifying participating majors at UC campuses. Chair Volz has created a rough draft of the guidance document and received feedback from Associate Vice Provost Yoon-Wu and Manager Terry. The comments from today's discussion will be incorporated into the draft which will be reviewed in March. Assembly Bill 1291 requires that five additional campuses implement ADT programs so the campuses interested in participating need to be identified. Chair Volz emphasized that this document is strictly guidance to the campuses and is not intended to dictate their strategies.

Discussion: Associate Vice Provost Yoon-Wu clarified that the intent of the legislation was that, while the second phase would include five campuses, all UC campuses to eventually have ADTs. UCLA was not a campus that needed more transfer applicants, so its choice of majors was confined to the programs that wanted to and could grow. It is hoped that campuses that find meeting the two-to-one ratio of freshman to transfer student enrollment a challenge will take advantage of promoting this program. It will be possible for a community college to have an ADT that aligns with multiple UC campuses, but UCM is dependent upon the decisions other campuses make with respect to meeting enrollment targets, so coordination across the system would be beneficial. The alignment with major preparation is critical to ensuring that transfer students are on track to graduate from UC in around two years. BOARS members from UCD, UCR, UCI, UCM, UCSB, and UCSC indicated that these campuses will pilot ADTs.

XI. Discussion about the UC Academic Senate's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Workgroup Report

This topic was not discussed due to time constraints.

XII. Member Reports/Campus Updates

UCSC: The campus has seen about a 30% drop in computer science applicants which is said to be due to artificial intelligence (AI).

UCR: This campus is also seeing a decline in applicants in computer science and engineering while the numbers of applicants to education, business, and public policy are growing. The overall number of applications is slightly larger than last year, but where people are applying has shifted quite a bit.

UCLA: The campus has been trying to become a Hispanic Serving Institution and the admissions office has been involved in conversations related to this.

UCSB: The campus has a new major in computer science called Artificial Intelligence that was recently approved by the divisional Academic Senate.

UCM: The number of applicants to computer science has also decreased at this campus and there are structural challenges with this major. The BS/MD program with UCSF has been approved by Provost Newman. The committee discussed using AI for application review. The division will change its bylaws to allow for two-year appointments to committees with the possibility of extensions.

XIII. New Business/Executive Session

No New Business was introduced and there was no additional Executive Session.

The meeting adjourned at: 4:01 PM

Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst

Attest: David Volz, Chair