UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

BOARD OF ADMISSIONS AND RELATIONS WITH SCHOOLS
Videoconference Minutes
April 3, 2026

In attendance: David Volz (Chair), Nicholas Mathew (Vice Chair), Gustavo Manso (UCB), Leah Hibel (UCD), Loraine Lau (UCI alternate), 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), Han Mi Yoon-Wu (Associate Vice Provost & Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions, Graduate, Undergraduate & Equity Affairs (GUEA)), Chase Fischerhall (Director, A-G & Transfer Articulation Policy, GUEA), Angelica Moore (Director, Undergraduate Admission Policy & Communications, GUEA), Liz Terry (Manager of Admissions Analytics, Undergraduate Admissions, GUEA), Tongshan Chang (Director, Institutional Research & Academic Planning (IRAP)), Matt Reed (Senior Institutional Research & Planning Analyst, IRAP), Ahmet Palazoglu (Chair, Academic Senate), Susannah Scott (Vice Chair, Academic Senate), Brenda Abrams (Principal Policy Analyst, Academic Senate)

I. Consent Calendar

Action: Today's agenda items and their priority were approved.
Action: The March 6th BOARS minutes were approved.

II. Chair's Updates

The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) held its annual Legislative Day on March 12th in Sacramento. ICAS met with the Legislative Director for Assemblymember Alvarez who has introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 2693 which would allow the California State University (CSU) system to offer doctoral programs and AB 2694 which would allow the California Community College (CCC) system to offer BA and BS programs. Legislative Day also included a visit with Assemblymember Berman who has introduced AB 2236 which would force ICAS to implement articulation and transferability of Common Course Numbering (CCN) courses once they are developed. During the final visit with consultants to the Assembly Higher Education Committee, the potential for one-time funding for ASSIST was raised. ICAS held a regular meeting on March 30th and the members considered a draft memo from the Academic Senate of the CCCs asking ICAS to support the use of CCN templates for articulation. Chair Volz is creating a flow diagram for ICAS to illustrate a proposed process for articulation review of CCN templates.

The March 25th Academic Council meeting included a discussion about how the significant increase in wages for Academic Student Employees and Graduate Student Researchers will be funded. Chair Volz mentioned that State Senator Niello's request for an audit of admissions at UCSD was not placed on the Joint Legislative Audit Committee's March agenda but has instead been introduced as Senate Bill (SB) 1321. SB 1321 would require the State Auditor to investigate

preparation and remedial education issues at the three most selective campuses within the CSU and UC.

III. Systemwide Guidance: Developing Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) Programs at UC Campuses

Members are asked to vote on a final draft of the systemwide guidance document that recommends steps divisions can take to develop ADT programs, including the selection of majors at UC campuses. The final draft reflects input received from BOARS during the March 6th meeting. The memo will be submitted to Academic Council for dissemination to the divisions.

Action: A motion to approve the systemwide guidance document was made, seconded, and approved with one abstention.

IV. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership
Ahmet Palazoglu, Chair & Susannah Scott, Vice Chair, Academic Senate

UC has reached an agreement with the UAW which has now been ratified by the union members. Chair Palazoglu's remarks to the Regents underscored the centrality of graduate students to UC's research enterprise. Four new Regents were appointed to the Board during this meeting and Chair Reilly and Vice Chair Sarris were reappointed to their positions. The UC Adaptation to Disruptions Plus Task Force workgroups are finalizing their recommendations and strategies to enable a resilient university going forward.

V. Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw 192 and Senate Regulations 636 and 761

BOARS provided input on the proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw (SB) 192 and Senate Regulation (SR) 636 and SR 761. Last year, a proposal to sunset the University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE) was rejected and Academic Council asked UCOPE to consider revisions to its bylaw as well as SR 636 on the Entry Level Writing Requirement and SR 761 on remedial courses.

Discussion: Members suggested that SB 192 should include a more precise definition of "monitor" and instead of a member of BOARS having an ex officio position on UCOPE, it would make more sense for the BOARS and UCOPE chairs to meet as needed.

VI. "Policies and Partnerships Roadmap" for UC Undergraduate Admissions

BOARS members were invited to provide feedback on the working draft of a "Policies and Partnerships Roadmap" for the 2026-27 academic year that summarizes UC's undergraduate admissions policies; recent UC faculty concerns about a gradual decline in preparation for some students; and BOARS' plans to lead the design, discussions, and direction of any actions the UC might take to address undergraduate admissions policy issues and build stronger K-12 partnerships. This roadmap builds upon options for potential systemwide changes to undergraduate admissions policies discussed during BOARS' March 6th meeting. An initial draft is due to systemwide Senate leadership by May 31, 2026, and a final roadmap is due by June 30, 2026. Chair Volz will revise the document between the committee's meetings.

Discussion: Members shared a range of ideas for the roadmap and considered if there are stakeholders with whom BOARS should consult before the roadmap is finalized. The committee also discussed how the work should be framed, and Chair Volz noted that having deliverables and a timeline will help this endeavor stay on track. Version 2 of the roadmap will be shared as a Google Doc and members are encouraged to add their suggestions before BOARS' next meeting on May 1st.

VII. International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) Analysis of External Exams
Maria D.S. Andrade Johnson, International Baccalaureate Recognition Specialist, IBO

Recognition Specialist Andrade Johnson joined BOARS to present analyses by the IBO of the scope and rigor of Standard Level (SL) exams and Advanced (A) level versus Advanced Placement (AP) exams in Math and English. During the committee's December meeting with Recognition Specialist Andrade Johnson, BOARS learned that the inability of students to use SL exams for college course credit within the UC is one of several barriers for expansion of IB programs across the state. Standard Level exams are currently used to fulfill A-G requirements, but are not allowed for college course credit even though numerous R1 universities across the country accept these exams for course credit. Recognition Specialist Andrade proceeded to offer a detailed explanation of why the current credit policies should be reviewed and the evidence-based rationale for formal policy review, touching on issues of affordability, access, and equity. The analyses suggest that it is important to look at credit on a subject-by-subject basis and the absence of a review of SL exams perpetuates a lack of parity in how IB students are awarded credit within the UC system versus AP. The IBO requests that BOARS formally open a review of the credit policies for SL exams.

Discussion: Recognition Specialist Andrade Johnson is willing to update the analysis of writing comparing IB with AP English and AP Language and Composition to account for the College Board's adoption of the Evidenced-Based Scoring Standards process. The data on articulation has not been adjusted for demographics, student selection, or school.

VIII. Reconsideration of the IB's SL Exams for College Course Credit

Members debriefed on the information presented by Recognition Specialist Andrade Johnson on the IB SL exams and contemplated if the BOARS policy from 2003 should be revised to permit SL exams to be reviewed for potential college course credit.

Discussion: Associate Vice Provost Yoon-Wu mentioned that other testing companies are eager to have UC consider their educational assessments. The workload involved in reviewing the external exams is a concern, so one suggestion is to only evaluate those exams that require students to complete a curriculum. It is important to acknowledge the expense of college and that students may want to graduate as quickly as possible. Vice Chair Mathew is collecting input from UC faculty who have assessed AP English and Math exams and there are concerns about how these exams structure learning. BOARS should think about how to incentivize the kind of learning that faculty think is most valuable at university, namely deep, immersive learning. A member proposed codifying a process that indicates how frequently the external exams will be reviewed and makes it clear that decisions to grant credit can be reversed. Chair Volz will collaborate with the chairs of the University Committee on Educational policy and UCOPE on a memo summarizing today's discussion including the consensus around reviewing IB SL exams.

IX. Debrief on Institutional Research & Academic Planning's Updated Analysis of A-G and

Honors Courses

This topic was not discussed due to time constraints.

X. University Committee on Planning and Budget's (UCPB's) Undergraduate Application Fee Waiver Proposal

BOARS members are asked to provide input on UCPB's draft proposal to have a single UC application fee that automatically covers applications to all nine undergraduate UC campuses and a fee waiver available to qualified applicants for the proposed nine-campus systemwide application fee. BOARS' input will be summarized and verbally relayed by Chair Volz to UCPB during its meeting on April 7th.

Discussion: Associate Vice Provost Yoon-Wu explained the importance of the application fees to the functions of the campus admissions offices. Some students are offered the opportunity to have their applications considered, with fees waived, by campuses to which they did not apply. Members of BOARS were unanimously against the UCPB proposal.

XI. Member Reports/Campus Updates

UCM: The campus committee has discussed math placement and preparation.

UCSC: The number of applications overall, and to computer science in particular, have declined.

UCR: The division's preparatory education committee has written a report on challenges with math preparation and a task force may be established to address these issues.

XII. New Business/Executive Session

No New Business was introduced, and Executive Session was not held.

The meeting adjourned at: 3:02 PM
Minutes prepared by: Brenda Abrams, Principal Policy Analyst
Attest: David Volz, Chair