



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Action Taken: The agenda and minutes were approved 8-0-0.

II. Chair's Report

Chair Partho Ghosh

The Chair reported on meetings he had attended, including a Chair/Vice Chair Update with the Senate Leadership. At that meeting, he highlighted the committee's adept handling of the first round of CSU doctoral degree proposals. He then discussed a proposal from CCGA that was on the Council's consent agenda but was removed and tabled due to some questions raised by the UCEP chair. He touched briefly on labor negotiations and noted that UC very much would like to avoid third-party arbitration. The Provost discussed Degree Plus and there were strong concerns raised by Council about the involvement of Extension. There is a large freshman class of legislators and a new gubernatorial election coming up which makes things a little difficult in terms of lobbying. At APC, the Provost asked the Chair to repeat his observation about "UCAD Plus fatigue." He remarked that the Group Five (Graduate Education) UCAD Plus co-chairs are coming to today's meeting to gather input.

Members had some questions.

III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Chair

Susannah Scott, Academic Senate Vice Chair

Senate Chair Palazoglu informed the group that the Regents are meeting in two weeks. There is a lot of news around the budget; the state is tracking about \$6B over projections. There are also some GO bonds coming up: one for housing and one from Senator Weiner. SGR is working hard on these. The DOJ recently filed a lawsuit against UCLA (Title VII). It could be settled before it goes to trial.

Several UCOP leaders came to the last Council meeting. Faculty are seeking clearer guidance regarding implementation of disability accommodations. They raised concerns that a compliance specialist

could reduce course content. Leaders acknowledged these concerns. The Senate and BOARS met about admissions, and the Senate Chair is charging a workgroup from BOARS to look at this issue which will call for significant involvement with K-12.

As of January 1, UC is out of contract with the ACS; negotiations are ongoing. ACS has been threatening to discontinue access to content with their journals, which is reminiscent of UC's interaction with Elsevier a few years ago. The UAW has authorized a strike, however the mediation is ongoing. The Senate will provide detailed guidance if a strike is called. Unit 18 Lecturers will be out of contract in June, and UC is preparing for negotiations. Former Senate Chair May is part of the negotiating team.

Members had questions and there was discussion.

IV. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Ele Grandi

Vice Chair Grandi said that most of her meetings had been in regard to mediation. CCGA will need to be involved soon with producing some guidelines to define graduate education and faculty academic rights and responsibilities.

Federal Government Relations (FGR) came to CoGD and discussed appropriation bills. The levels of funding were similar to 2025, which is good news. In addition, the F&A rates were not changed. FGR is also working to try to protect student access to loans. There was talk about using academic analytics for tracking student outcomes and alumni, but the Provost has decided not to move forward with those efforts at this time.

The Vice Chair said that UCAD Plus seems to have shifted its focus: it is now looking to lift innovations and best practices and highlight divisional innovations for other campuses to potentially adopt.

V. Consultation with UC Legal

Sheila O'Rourke, UC Legal

Ms. O'Rourke provided some guidance on language for the CCGA Handbook.

The Chair and Vice Chair will work on new language and will run it by UC Legal for further input and refinement.

VI. Council of Graduate Deans' Report

Peter Biehl, UCSC

Dean Biehl shared that the CoGD will be meeting in San Francisco in April. The meeting will feature one session on rebuilding the public trust. He noted that President Milliken has charged the graduate deans to discover why higher education is experiencing the

current erosion of trust. One point of consideration will be aligning learning outcomes with job placement; President Milliken is very interested in exploring this.

VII. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Pamela Jennings, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Studies
Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy
Carmen Corona, Director of Academic Planning and Policy

Associate Vice Provost Jennings explained that her office is working on a range of the issues that that Vice Chair Grandi and Dean Beihl had discussed. She noted that the NSF-funded CAMP program hosted its statewide conference at UCI; it was a wonderful convening of students and faculty. UCSF hosted UC LEADS, which is another STEM preparation program. She closed by sharing that Democratic Senate President Pro Tem Monique Limón will emcee Grad Slam.

Executive Advisor Greenspan noted that President Milliken testified at the Assembly Budget Committee and is going to testify tomorrow at the Senate Budget Finance Committee. Master Plan issues are coming up. Some of the legislators are skeptical about the Master Plan and there might be a new approach. A bill has been introduced which would give CSU the authority to offer PhDs without checking for UC duplication. Similarly, there has been considerable conversation about the CCCs offering bachelor's degrees. His office sent out the President's letter on enrollment targets which included a four-year rolling plan. He observed that there will be a new governor and potentially a new compact next year.

Director Corona asked members to send program proposal materials to her going forward.

VIII. Campus Reports

Members reported on issues related to graduate education from their divisions.

IX. Consultation with the UCAD Plus Workgroup Five (Graduate Education) Co-Chairs

Susannah Scott, Academic Senate Vice Chair
Gillian Hayes, Vice Provost, UCI

Members asked questions about the purpose/goals/focus of the workgroup report and provided input and feedback on what would be most beneficial.

X. New Program Proposals

- A. Proposal for an Online Master of Business Administration (OMBA) from the Riverside Division [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Wayne Steward

The Lead Reviewer secured four reviews. He explained that UCR already has a full-time MBA. This is a new proposal, but essentially is taking their existing

content and putting it online. The reviewers had some critiques, but no serious concerns.

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 8-0-1.

- B. Proposal for an MS in Global Regulatory Science and Innovation (GRSI) from the San Francisco Division [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Baolin Wu

The proposers are still working on substantial revisions. The Lead Reviewer has asked for a redline version when they are finished.

- C. Proposal for Online Masters of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Biomedical Engineering for Healthcare Technologies from the Davis Division [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Hyle Park

The Lead Reviewer shared some concerns and comments with the proposers; and they responded well. The program helps recent graduates get up to speed with industry practices.

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 7-0-2.

- D. Proposal for a Master of Design (MDes) from the San Diego Division [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Erkin Seker
Action Taken: Approved pending UCPB Report

- E. Proposal for an MA in Anthropology from the Santa Cruz Division
Action Taken: New Proposal Requested

- F. Proposal for a Master of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (MAIML) from the Berkeley Division [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Hyle Park

The Lead Reviewer is looking to get reviewers.

- G. Proposal for a Master of Engineering and Technology Leadership from the Santa Barbara Division [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Dorota Dabrowska

The Lead Reviewer has two UC reviews and is waiting for the external reviews. She expressed concern that this program will be for early- and mid-career technology professionals as well as people who have no technology experience. It may be difficult to serve different people with disparate needs.

- H. RESUBMISSION: Proposal for an Online Master’s in Preventive Veterinary Medicine and One Health (eMPVM) from the Davis Division [SSGPDP]
Lead Reviewer: Irene Beattie

The Lead Reviewer is waiting on reviews.

XI. 4+1 Proposals and “Pathways”

Chair Ghosh noted that there is confusion between 4+1 proposals – which come to CCGA – and “pathways” – which do not. He said that the Compendium does not provide a very full description of what 4+1s are. The committee discussed different concerns and items for consideration in creating new clarifying language for the Handbook. Professors Park, Sarkar, and Saltikov will work to develop and finalize language for the April meeting.

XII. New Business

The Chair discussed the issue of asynchronous proposals and how one was under scrutiny by Council. He asked if CCGA should develop criteria for the review of fully asynchronous proposals.

The committee and consultants discussed the question. Executive Advisor Greenspan noted that under federal law (to be eligible for financial aid) and for accreditation, the program cannot be a correspondence course.

XIII. Executive Session

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

The committee adjourned at 3:19 p.m.

