



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Minutes of Meeting

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed 10-0-0.

II. Chair's Report

Chair Partho Ghosh

The Chair reported that Vice Chair Grandi had attended Council in his absence. He attended the UCAD Plus Workgroup Five meeting, which focused on editing the document the committee will be discussing later.

III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

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

Senate Chair Palazoglu remarked that the University has averted a strike and reached an agreement with the UAW that includes ASEs and RPSPs, which will have an impact on grants. Provost Newman sent a letter with some details of the agreement. He and Senate Vice Chair Scott have been discussing creating a communication that would go into more detail of the concerns of the faculty. While the University held firm that all academic requirements be determined by the faculty, the wage and benefit increases are significant. GSR and TA funding has been increasing over the years, but their numbers are starting to drop. He explained that the Senate is working with OP to determine solutions.

At the Regents meeting, Chair Palazoglu highlighted the difficulty that faculty are having and that UC's reputation as an R-1 university is at stake. He noted that four new Regents had been appointed and that two, including the Board Chair, were reappointed.

March 12 was legislative day in Sacramento and the leadership of all three segments of higher education spent time with the legislators to talk about their thoughts and concerns. They discussed STEM pathways for high school students and the Common Course Numbering Project. The leadership raised academic freedom issues in some legislation, and the language will be changed accordingly. They also discussed legislation that is targeting the Master Plan.

There is conversation about offering bachelor's degrees at the CCCs and doctoral degrees at CSU. UC will be meeting with Assemblymember Alvarez to discuss this and hopefully slow things down.

The Assembly meeting will be on Thursday and will feature votes on the ratification of the 2026-27 Academic Senate vice chair and the recipients of the Oliver Johnson Award. President Milliken and Deputy Counsel Woodall will join.

The UCAD Plus Workgroups are asked to provide progress reports on March 31. The CFO and COO are leading an administrative initiative; there will be an in-person meeting in May to explore ideas and make recommendations. The final reports are expected to be submitted to the steering committee in June.

Senate Vice Chair Scott reported that the PUDP will have a final report by the end of this month. The group is debating what defines UC quality and the upfront start-up costs of launching UC-quality undergraduate online degrees; this will not be inexpensive.

Members had questions and there was discussion.

IV. Vice Chair's Report

Vice Chair Ele Grandi

Vice Chair Grandi reported that she attended the COGD meeting and there was some discussion about graduate admissions. Several campuses report a reduction, but others are holding steady. There is a uniform decline in international student applications of roughly 25-30 percent. The deans had some discussion about normative time to degree. She also attended a couple of faculty advisory meetings; now the work is shifting to sharing communication.

The Vice Chair attended Council in lieu of the Chair, where a considerable discussion was held regarding a fully asynchronous program that had been approved by CCGA. Council expressed concern regarding the ability for students to engage with each other or with the instructor in this mode and also significant worry about academic integrity and AI. She noted that Professor Gilbert and Analyst Harms were helpful in defending the committee's approval, which was ultimately ratified by Council. She said that Council expects post-approval oversight from CCGA, which is not currently part of the committee's mandate.

The CFO and COO came to Council and discussed an administrative version of UCAD Plus; this was welcomed by Council. There was also an announcement from President Milliken that UC will be an official sponsor of SB 895 (Wiener), which would provide \$23 billion to protect jobs, sustain lifesaving research, improve health and bolster the state's innovation economy.

V. Council of Graduate Deans' Report

Peter Biehl, UCSC

Dean Biehl reminded the committee that Grad Slam is coming later in the month. In addition, some campuses will do an advocacy day in Sacramento, and will be featuring the Wiener bill in their meetings. He noted that President Milliken has a new Substack and encouraged members to subscribe to it. He remarked that it is interesting to see the differences in the campuses in their funding guarantees; he will have a more thorough report at the May meeting. He expressed anticipation about the upcoming in-person meeting of the graduate deans in San Francisco and said that proposed topics include AI and (separately) time-to-degree.

VI. Announcements from Academic Affairs

Pamela Jennings, Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Studies

Carmen Corona, Director of Academic Planning and Policy

AVP Jennings remarked that the PFP fellows have been confirmed and the UC-HSI announcements will go out later this month. The UC-HBCU review will take place next month. Grad Slam competitions are being finished up on the campuses now; the systemwide competition will be held on April 22 in Sacramento. The Chair of the Board of Regents will be one of the judges; it is important to make the Regents more aware of graduate education. She reported that campuses are doing what they can to mitigate filing fee issues.

Director Corona shared that her office had met with representatives from the CSUs, and they are not looking for any kind of negotiation regarding the doctoral degree applications that CCGA rejected in the fall. There has been some discussion about how to have faculty-to-faculty consultation before the proposals are submitted. The next batch are due September 15.

VII. Campus Reports

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

VIII. New Program Proposals

- A. Proposal for an MS in Global Regulatory Science and Innovation (GRSI) from the San Francisco Division [SSGPDP]

Lead Reviewer: Baolin Wu

The Lead Reviewer reported that the proposers are hoping to do a resubmission.

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

The Lead Reviewer discussed the UCPB review which raised questions about the degree to which the proposal would be self-sustaining in three years and also what consideration had been given to the hiring of ladder-rank faculty if the program fails. He will take these questions back to the proposers.

- C. Proposal for an MA in Anthropology from the Santa Cruz Division

Action Taken: New Proposal Requested

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

The Lead Reviewer is working on securing two non-UC reviewers.

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

The Lead Reviewer stated that she had four reviews and had communicated with the proposers, who provided a red-lined version of the report. There was concern that the program did not define its audience, and that the scope was too broad. The proposers revised it to attract early-career engineers. They also provided a clarification of the prerequisites. UCPB had a positive review, and there is a strong demand for this type of program.

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.

- F. 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 reported that she should be able to bring the proposal for a vote at the May meeting.

- G. Proposal for a One-Year Track for the MS in Epidemiology from the Irvine Division

Action Taken: Wayne Steward was assigned as Lead Reviewer.

- H. Proposal for a Master of Population Data Science from the Los Angeles Division [SSGPDP]

Action Taken: No member volunteered for this review at the meeting; the Chair will follow up to assign someone.

IX. Transfers, Name Changes, Consolidations, and Discontinuances

- A. Proposal to Discontinue the Master of Public Administration Program from the Los Angeles Division

Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-1.

X. 4+1 Proposals and “Pathways”

Members discussed the language that had been developed by Professors Park, Saltikov and Sarkar. The following verbiage was approved to replace the current language in the Handbook:

Undergraduate/Masters Hybrid Degree Program April 2, 2026

Undergraduate/Master’s hybrid degree programs include structured curricular integration between the undergraduate and graduate Master’s degrees, such that students may enroll in graduate-level coursework while still in undergraduate status. Master’s courses taken during the undergraduate period may be applied toward the Master’s degree course requirements. Where formally authorized, Master’s-level course units may be applied toward both undergraduate and Master’s degrees (units are double counted). While double counting of units in Undergraduate/Master’s hybrid degree programs is not customary, to make such programs attractive to a large pool of motivated students and facilitate completion of the Master’s within an accelerated time frame (e.g., 1 year), a program may allow double-counting of up to 30 percent of the required Master’s degree units taken by a student while an undergraduate at that campus.

The Compendium provides specific guidance about the nature of review of such proposals at the campus and states that, once approved, any hybrid program proposal is to be forwarded to CCGA for review. If the hybrid program involves the establishment of a new Master’s program, CCGA will then review this in the same manner as it reviews any other new graduate degree proposal. If, however, the proposed hybrid program is simply a new articulation between an existing bachelor’s degree program and an existing Master’s degree program, CCGA will normally provide pro forma concurrence with the campus action, unless it judges that there are particular issues that justify a more extended review.

Action Taken: The new guidance was approved 11-0-0.

XI. CCGA Opportunity Language

The Chair proposed the following text to replace the diversity requirement currently in the Handbook. This language was created in partnership with a representative from UC Legal:

5) Contributions to Access, Opportunity, and Excellence: The University of California's reputation as a premier research and teaching institution rests on its capacity to serve the State of California and the nation at the highest levels. Achieving this mission requires attracting and graduating scholars who reflect the full intellectual potential of the diverse communities we serve. Proposals should describe how the program will contribute to the University of California's goals of broad access to graduate education and excellence through the recruitment, education, and success of a wide range of students and faculty with a wide range of talents and backgrounds. Proposals should outline steps the program plans to take during its first five years to promote excellence through access, opportunity, and student success, including strategies related to outreach, recruitment, and retention. The proposal should also describe how the program will evaluate progress toward these objectives.

Action Taken: The new language was approved 11-0-0.

XII. Systemwide Information and Items Under Systemwide Review

- A. Chair Palazoglu's Remarks to the Board of Regents
- B. Systemwide Senate Review of Proposal to Establish a Systemwide Academic Senate Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability
- C. Systemwide Senate Review Tribal Lands Workgroup Report
- D. Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations and Students (PACAOS) 100.00 and PACAOS-Appendix H

XIII. New Business

Professor Beattie shared that she had a request from some faculty for a professional master's degree in education that would need to go through Extension, and therefore would not have faculty oversight or routine program review. Members felt that such a proposal would not be allowed on their campuses.

Professor Saltikov asked how other graduate councils are doing course approvals.

Vice Chair Grandi raised a question about substantive review related to a program on her campus.

XIV. Executive Session

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

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

Susannah Scott, Academic Senate Vice Chair

Gillian Hayes, Vice Provost, UCI

The UCAD Plus Workgroup Five co-chairs gathered feedback regarding the draft of the workgroup's report on graduate education.

The committee adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

