



**COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

**I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**

***Action Taken: The agenda and minutes were approved 11-0-0***

**II. Chair's Report**

*Chair Partho Ghosh*

The Chair reported that he had been to UCAD, UCAD Plus, and Council meetings. UCAD Plus has had concerns about not having enough humanities representation, and there have been some faculty additions. CCGA will have a listening session with the UCAD Plus co-chairs in March. In Council, there was a report about negotiations and there has been some communication from the Provost. The GSR and ASE contracts have been extended and have no-strike clauses, but there will be a vote in the next couple of days. Analyst Harms will share CCGA guidance on 299s.

**III. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership**

*Susannah Scott, Academic Senate Vice Chair*

Vice Chair Scott reported that Chair Palazoglu would not be attending due to illness.

She said that January had been busy. At the Regents' meeting, CFO Brostrom discussed the January budget which was generally good for UC; there was a budget increase of seven percent, which was considered "a real win" in the current climate. That said, many spending projects were deferred. The governor is signaling his support for UC, but did not allocate any capital funds for the University; these will hopefully be covered by bonds. UC has been meeting and exceeding its compact goals. There was a reception for legislators at the end of January, and it was very well- attended by UC staff who thanked the legislators for their support.

The Senate Vice Chair then discussed the approval of revisions to APM 015-016. The final revision was accepted, and the Regents congratulated the Senate on shared governance process. However, there is more work to be done on the Expressive Activities front. The goal is to have a common understanding of freedom of expression. The Provost is hosting a new congress on STEM.

The University has heard that the UAW plans to hold a strike authorization vote shortly.

Members had questions and there was discussion.

#### **IV. Vice Chair's Report**

*Vice Chair Ele Grandi*

Vice Chair Grandi said that there was nothing to report from the Faculty Advisory Committee on Education and Employment. CoGD met in January and addressed many of the themes that have already been discussed. There was a report on the overall decline in number of applicants; part of that is driven by slowed international student enrollment. President Milliken is starting a workgroup aimed at rebuilding the public's trust in the University.

#### **V. Council of Graduate Deans' Report**

*Peter Biehl, UCSC*

Dean Biehl reported that UCSC has seen a tremendous increase in applications. However, the University needs to remain very concerned about the yield rate. All campuses are being very careful in terms of over-offering. Campuses need to use contingency language to make sure there is a level playing field. The CoGD spring meeting will be held in San Francisco.

Members had questions and there was discussion.

#### **VI. Announcements from Academic Affairs**

*Pamela Jennings, AVP for Graduate Studies*

*Todd Greenspan, Executive Advisor, Academic Planning and Policy*

*Carmen Corona, Director of Academic Planning and Policy*

*Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst*

Analyst Procello said that there had been no new word on the status of the CSU doctoral degree proposals; there is no set time by which they need to respond. President Milliken has agreed to accept a school name change from UCSD, but it circumvented the Senate Process; this has been pointed out to UCSD. The Trump administration has issued an Executive Order about accreditation. The DOE has issued a proposed, nomenclature-based interpretive rule to eliminate the use of "regional" by accrediting agencies and to only allow accrediting agencies and institutions to refer to accreditors as national or institutional: <https://public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2026-03074.pdf>.

Executive Advisor Greenspan that his office had just received the President's approval for the enrollment targets for undergraduates for 2026-27. There is proposed growth of about 2600, which is considerably over the targets set. Most of the growth is at Santa Cruz, Riverside, and Merced. The Provost wants to talk about increasing three-year undergraduate degree attainment.

## VII. Campus Reports

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

## VIII. 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 reported that he is waiting on two reviews and should have a response by the March meeting.

- B. Proposal for an Online Master of Engineering in Water Resources Engineering from the Davis Division [SSGPDP]

*Lead Reviewer: Neil Gilbert*

The Lead Reviewer reported that he had four reviews in that he had four reviews in hand and had shared them with the proposers. There were concerns about the asynchronous mode and AI, and faculty overload. The proposer responded thoroughly and persuasively.

***Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-2.***

- C. 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 he had three reviews and waiting on the fourth. In general, they are very positive, but they raised very compelling concerns. He sent those to the program and is waiting their response.

- D. Proposal for an Online Masters of Engineering (M.Eng.) in Biomedical Engineering for Healthcare Technologies from the Davis Division [SSGPDP]

*Lead Reviewer: Hyle Park*

The Lead Reviewer reported that he had received four reviews and sent proposers a summary of the points. They responded with some clarifying questions and he replied with a more detailed response.

- E. Proposal for Master of Design (MDes) from the San Diego Division

*Lead Reviewer: Erkin Seker*

The Lead Reviewer received four reviews, and all were in strong support. There were some recommendations but no real concerns.

***Action Taken: The proposal was approved 10-0-2.***

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

***Action Taken: New Proposal Requested***

G. Proposal for a 4+1 in Mathematics from the Riverside Division

*Lead Reviewer: Sutanu Sarkar*

The Lead Reviewer remarked that this is a straightforward proposal. They are not changing anything with the MS and are not double-counting. All of the local committees approved it.

***Action Taken: The proposal was approved 11-0-1.***

H. Proposal for a Master of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (MAIML) from the Berkeley Division [SSGPDP]

***Action Taken: Hyle Park was assigned as Lead Reviewer***

**IX. UCAD Plus and CCGA**

Members discussed their thoughts on the activities of the UCAD Plus workgroup on graduate education.

**X. New Business**

Professor Beattie raised a question about the length of dissertations, and any requirements/guidance other campuses may have in place. There was a brief discussion.

**XI. Consultation with Deputy Provost Amy Lee**

*Amy Lee, Deputy Provost, Systemwide Academic Personnel*

Deputy Provost Lee provided a bargaining update and next steps.

**XII. Consultation with Provost Newman**

Provost Newman discussed graduate education and her vision for UC moving forward.

**XIII. Executive Session**

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.