



**Academic Council
Minutes of Meeting
May 27, 2026**

I. Consent Calendar

1. Today's agenda items and their priority
2. April 29, 2026 Academic Council minutes
3. 2026-27 Assembly apportionment
4. [Name change](#) for the UCSD School of Computing, Information, and Data Sciences
5. UCSD Master of Design
6. UCLA request for variance to systemwide [Senate Regulation 900](#)
7. June 11, 2026 Assembly agenda items

ACTION: Council approved the consent calendar.

II. Senate Officers' Announcements

- **Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Council Chair**
- **Susannah Scott, Academic Council Vice Chair**
- **Monica Lin, Academic Senate Executive Director**

Digital Accessibility: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services extended the Section 504 Digital Accessibility Compliance deadline from May 2026 to May 11, 2027, aligning it more closely with the ADA Title II timeline. UC will continue working toward compliance over the next year, and additional guidance from UCOP is forthcoming.

Title VI Lawsuit: A new Department of Justice lawsuit against UCLA alleges Title VI violations related to antisemitism and seeks remedies similar to those pursued against Harvard, including compliance monitoring and potential rescission of federal grant funding.

Undergraduate Admissions: An [open letter from UC faculty](#) calling for the reinstatement of the SAT/ACT in UC admissions was directed to UCOP, the Regents, and the Academic Senate. Chair Palazoglu noted that the Senate has delegated authority over admissions standards and that he had already charged the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools ([BOARS](#)) with studying standardized testing and the A–G admissions framework. BOARS is currently finalizing a roadmap for that work.

Master Plan: Senate leadership participated in a meeting on California's Master Plan for Higher Education that included state legislators and leaders from the CSU and the community colleges. Participants discussed proposals to expand regional degree offerings and make broader revisions to the Master Plan. At a subsequent meeting with Assemblymember Alvarez, Senate leaders also heard concerns about access to four-year degree programs in specific regions of the state.

ICAS Meeting: The Intersegmental Committee of the Academic Senates (ICAS) approved a new [core values statement](#) emphasizing shared governance, academic freedom, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. ICAS also approved a statement supporting progress on the Common Course Numbering initiative and opposing legislation that could interfere with ongoing articulation work.

UCORP Charge: Chair Palazoglu announced that he will issue a special charge to the University Committee on Research Policy ([UCORP](#)) to study issues related to research funding transparency and develop recommendations in collaboration with [UCAF](#) and [UCFW](#).

UAW Contracts: Senate leadership is discussing strategies with the administration to mitigate the financial impact of the new UAW Academic Student Employees (ASEs) and Graduate Student Researchers (GSRs) contracts. Vice Chair Scott noted that the contract's effects will vary across campuses depending on existing graduate student researcher and teaching assistant pay structures.

Clinical Faculty Task Force: President Milliken has charged a joint Senate-administration Presidential Task Force on Models of Governance for Clinical Faculty in the UC Health System to examine how health sciences clinical faculty can better participate in shared governance. The task force will be co-chaired by UCI Chancellor Gillman and UCLA Professor Michael Ong, include six Senate representatives and six administrators, and provide recommendations within 90 days of their first meeting.

Discussion highlights:

- Council members noted that the open letter from faculty regarding the SAT/ACT was developed outside established Senate processes. They emphasized that BOARS has been actively reviewing admissions and student preparedness issues and expressed concern that parallel public advocacy efforts could undermine shared governance, Senate credibility, and relationships with external constituent groups.

III. Executive Session

IV. Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs & Systemwide Academic Personnel

- **Monica Varsanyi, Vice Provost, [Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs](#)**
- **Amy K. Lee, Deputy Provost, Systemwide Academic Personnel ([SWAP](#))**

International Education Committees: Vice Provost Varsanyi asked whether any campuses had disbanded Senate committees on international education and, if so, why. Members reported that staffing and budget pressures, rather than declining interest, were driving discussions about consolidating Senate committees and redirecting staff support. Several expressed concern that reductions in committees or staff could weaken institutional memory, policy expertise, and transparency.

APM - 500 and APM - 360: Deputy Provost Lee reported that revisions to APM - 500, governing misconduct disclosures under Senate Bill 791 and Assembly Bill 810, and APM - 360, concerning the classification of university librarians, had been delayed because of competing priorities of her office. She noted that both policies are expected to be finalized before the fall term.

Immigration Policy Update: Deputy Provost Lee reported that the federal government had announced a new policy limiting adjustment-of-status applications for permanent residency to extraordinary circumstances. She noted that it remains unclear whether the policy will apply to H-1B visa holders and that UC Legal is reviewing the policy and potential legal challenges.

V. Proposed Systemwide Senate Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability

Council reviewed a summary memo on the [proposal](#) to establish a systemwide Senate Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability following the systemwide review and Council's initial consideration of reviewer [comments](#) in April 2026. Chair Palazoglu noted that there was no consensus in support of creating a new standing committee and that Council would not advance

the proposal to the Assembly. However, the review identified several alternative approaches for strengthening Senate engagement and coordination on climate change and sustainability issues.

Discussion highlights:

- Members emphasized the importance of maintaining Senate leadership on climate and sustainability issues even without creating a new standing committee. Several noted that many of UC's major sustainability advances have resulted from Senate advocacy and stressed the importance of continued faculty engagement and systemwide coordination.
- Members noted that climate and sustainability issues span multiple areas of responsibility, making it difficult to define a charge for a single committee. Some suggested that strengthening coordination through existing groups like the [Global Climate Leadership Council](#) and the [President's Sustainability Steering Committee](#) would be more effective than creating a new committee. They noted that sustainability reports, decarbonization plans, and reviews of the [UC Sustainable Practices Report](#) could provide additional opportunities for Senate input.

ACTION: Council voted to endorse the summary memo for distribution to the divisional Senates as the conclusion of the systemwide review process.

VI. Consultation with Executive Leadership

- Katherine Newman, Provost & Executive Vice President, [Academic Affairs](#)
- Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, [UC Finance](#)

Research Collaborations: Provost Newman discussed efforts to expand UC's international research collaborations in response to anticipated reductions in federal research funding. She described discussions with European institutions, foundations, and research partners aimed at developing collaborative research networks in areas such as climate and health. She noted that while California cannot participate in Horizon Europe as a partner at the country level, opportunities nevertheless do exist for UC researchers to engage in some EU-funded collaborations.

UCAD Plus: Provost Newman reported that the UCAD Plus workgroup co-chairs are preparing final reports for systemwide review in fall 2026. She emphasized the importance of broad faculty engagement beyond formal Senate structures and described plans to encourage consultation at the department level through collaborations with campus EVCs, deans, and department chairs.

Discussion highlights:

- Members supported efforts to expand faculty engagement in the UCAD Plus process and emphasized the importance of involving departments in discussions about the recommendations. Several noted that department conversations would be more effective than campuswide forums for generating faculty input, and stressed that faculty should receive a well-defined charge, and an explanation of how feedback would be collected and used.
- Members emphasized that the process should remain faculty-driven and cautioned that faculty engagement could diminish if the initiative appears overly administrative. Several suggested that focused discussion topics and designated department liaisons could strengthen communication and engagement.

Budget Outlook, Capital Finance, and UCAD Plus: CFO Brostrom reported that the Governor's May Revision was favorable for UC. It preserves the funding increases proposed in January and includes funding to replace nonresident enrollment with California resident enrollment at UCB, UCLA, and UCSD. He cautioned that future state budgets are uncertain because of projected state budget deficits, potential federal healthcare funding reductions, and volatility in capital gains

revenues. He also discussed proposed statewide bond measures related to research, housing, and higher education capital projects.

He highlighted ongoing challenges related to deferred maintenance and capital renewal. He noted that campuses plan to dedicate the additional one percent tuition increment authorized under the Tuition Stability Plan to capital needs and future bond financing. He also discussed a forthcoming \$1.1 billion UC bond issuance, insurance market pressures, and efforts to strengthen UC's captive insurance program.

CFO Brostrom noted that UCAD Plus and Administrative Transformation initiatives include efforts to encourage campuses to make greater use of restricted and designated endowment funds before relying on core operating funds.

Discussion highlights:

- Members expressed concern about California's long-term budget outlook, including the potential effects of federal healthcare cuts, economic conditions, and volatility in capital gains revenues. Members also discussed challenges associated with communicating UC's financial position and budget needs to faculty and other stakeholders.
- Members asked about the status of faculty compensation discussions and noted that salary increases had historically been discussed earlier in the annual budget process. CFO Brostrom responded that collective bargaining obligations and evolving revenue projections have complicated those discussions and that a final decision had not yet been made.

VII. State Governmental Relations (SGR)

- **Kathleen Fullerton, Associate Vice President and Director**
- **Seija Virtanen, Associate Director, State Budget**

SGR leaders described the current political and budget environment in Sacramento as shaped by fiscal pressures, competing policy priorities, and the approaching gubernatorial election. They reviewed pending ballot measures and legislation affecting UC, including proposals related to the California Master Plan for Higher Education, research and housing bonds, labor relations, artificial intelligence procurement, data sharing, and public investment. They noted that UC and CSU continue to oppose piecemeal revisions to the Master Plan.

SGR leaders reported that the Governor's May Revision benefited from stronger than expected state revenues driven by gains in the technology sector. The proposal maintains the UC funding included in the January budget, including Compact-related funding and support for replacing nonresident enrollment with California resident undergraduates at UCB, UCLA, and UCSD. They nevertheless cautioned that the state faces long-term structural budget challenges despite the improved short-term outlook.

Discussion highlights:

- Members inquired about a proposal to require UCB, UCLA, and UCSD to use differential nonresident tuition to support additional California resident enrollments. SGR staff expressed concern that the proposal would shift responsibility for enrollment growth funding from the state to the University and reduce UC's financial flexibility.
- SGR staff also highlighted proposed legislation that would further restrict UC's ability to contract out services covered by AFSCME bargaining agreements. They noted that the measure could have significant operational impacts on campuses and medical centers if enacted.

VIII. Conversion of Regents Standing Orders into Bylaws

- **Clare Sheridan, Deputy Chief of Staff, Policy & Governance, Office of the [Regents](#)**

Deputy Chief of Staff Sheridan presented a proposal to continue the Regents' effort to modernize and streamline UC's governing framework by converting remaining Regents [Standing Orders](#) into Regents Bylaws and Policies. She noted that the proposal is intended to reorganize and preserve existing authorities and provisions without substantive changes to policy. It includes several provisions related to the Academic Senate, including a clarifying amendment to [Bylaw 40.2](#) that reaffirms the Regents' intent that the Senate has the authority to determine its own membership. The proposal also codifies provisions currently contained in the Standing Orders through new or revised Regents Policies and rescinds the corresponding Standing Orders. Chair Palazoglu noted that the proposal strengthens and clarifies protections for Senate authority and reaffirms membership provisions that were not fully reflected when the Regents reorganized the bylaws in 2016.

Discussion highlights:

- Members expressed support for the proposal as an important clarification and safeguard within the Regents' governing framework.

ACTION: Council voted to approve and forward the proposal to the Assembly for consideration.

IX. Report of the UC Tribal Lands Workgroup

Chair Palazoglu summarized comments received from the [systemwide review](#) of the Report of the UC Tribal Lands Workgroup. He noted that reviewers expressed broad support for the report's goals and for strengthening UC's relationships with Tribal communities. At the same time, concerns were raised about the extent of Tribal consultation in the development of the report, governance and implementation structures, resource and staffing needs, research implications, accountability mechanisms, and protections for academic freedom.

Discussion highlights:

- Council members noted concerns raised in the review about the need for more meaningful Tribal consultation and cautioned that insufficient engagement could undermine relationships with Tribal communities. Members also noted the importance of providing stronger historical context for the report.

ACTION: Council voted to forward the comments and summary to Provost Newman for consideration.

X. Mortgage Origination Program

- **Meghan Gutekunst, Associate Vice President, [Capital Financial Planning & Analysis](#)**
- **Jennifer Mays, Director, [Office of Loan Programs](#)**

Administrators from Financial Management in the UC Finance Division provided an update on the University's Mortgage Origination Program ([MOP](#)). They noted that growing demand, changes in financial markets, and increasing reliance on the Short-Term Investment Pool (STIP) to fund MOP loans have raised concerns about the program's long-term sustainability. To address these challenges, UC plans to transition to a capital markets funding model that would reduce reliance on STIP while maintaining the program's current scale. The proposal would replace the existing one- and five-year adjustable-rate mortgages with a new adjustable-rate mortgage featuring a seven-year initial fixed-rate period before annual rate adjustments. Presenters noted that the

changes would better align the program with its funding model while preserving below-market financing for faculty. Implementation is expected in January 2027.

Discussion highlights:

- Members welcomed efforts to preserve the long-term viability of the MOP and emphasized its importance as a faculty recruitment and retention tool, particularly in high-cost housing markets. Members also discussed the program's limited capacity relative to demand and welcomed plans to expand capacity through the new funding model.
- Members asked about the impact of the proposed changes on current and prospective borrowers. Administrators emphasized that existing loans would not be affected and that the new structure would provide a longer period of predictable payments for new mortgage holders while maintaining below-market financing.
- Members also stressed the importance of clear outreach to campuses and faculty about the changes and their implications.

XI. Revisions to Senate Bylaw 192 and Senate Regulations 636 and 761

○ **Bradley Queen, Chair, University Committee on Preparatory Education**

Chair Palazoglu summarized comments received during the systemwide review of proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw [192](#) and Senate Regulations [636](#) and [761](#). The review indicated broad support for modernizing the University Committee on Preparatory Education's (UCOPE) governing bylaw and aligning the regulations with current placement practices, but also identified concerns requiring further revision before the proposal could advance to the Assembly for consideration.

UCOPE Chair Queen agreed that additional revisions were warranted. He noted concerns that proposed terminology changes could unintentionally narrow UCOPE's oversight responsibilities and indicated that UCOPE would revisit the language and further clarify its role. He also acknowledged suggestions to clarify oversight of student placement processes, strengthen coordination among UCOPE, [BOARS](#), and [UCEP](#), and more clearly define the role of the Entry Level Writing Requirement Coordinating Council ([ECC](#)).

Members also discussed the importance of student math placement and preparation. Chair Queen indicated that it may consider future policy addressing mathematics placement, potentially through a coordinating body similar to the ECC.

ACTION: Council supported returning the review comments to UCOPE for consideration before bringing a revised proposal forward in the 2026-27 academic year.

XII. Presidential Policy Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations and Students (PACAOS) 100.00 and PACAOS-Appendix H

Chair Palazoglu summarized comments from the [systemwide review](#) of proposed revisions to PACAOS 100.00 and PACAOS Appendix H. Reviewers generally supported the goals of improving consistency, clarity, transparency, and timeliness in student conduct processes, as well as the revised medical amnesty provisions. Reviewers also raised concerns about limitations on medical amnesty, mandatory intervention requirements, procedural clarity, due process protections, and accessibility. Reviewers recommended clarifying the relationship between PACAOS 100.00 and its appendices, defining key terms and roles, and strengthening procedural safeguards.

Discussion highlights:

- Members expressed concern that certain provisions could unintentionally discourage students from seeking medical assistance, particularly the limitation of amnesty to once per term and the requirement that students participate in intervention or rehabilitation programs as a condition of amnesty. Questions were also raised about whether changes to the amnesty provisions could create disincentives for students to seek help.
- Members also discussed the limited role of faculty in the framework and the importance of clarifying faculty involvement and authority, particularly in cases involving academic misconduct.

ACTION: Council approved forwarding the comments and a summary to Provost Newman.

XIII. Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw 337

- **Susan Amussen, Chair, University Committee on Privilege and Tenure**

Chair Amussen presented proposed revisions to [Senate Bylaw 337](#) needed to conform with revisions to Bylaw 336 [adopted by the Assembly in 2021](#) to align Senate disciplinary procedures with updated federal Title IX regulations and state requirements governing sexual violence and sexual harassment (SVSH) cases. She explained that the revisions are technical and largely incorporate language already adopted in Bylaw 336, with limited modifications reflecting procedural differences applicable to early dismissal cases under Bylaw 337. She emphasized that the proposal does not create new procedures or substantive policy changes, but aligns the bylaw with existing legal obligations and current practice.

ACTION: Council voted to endorse and forward the proposal to the Assembly for consideration.

XIV. Reports from Senate Division Chairs

Several chairs described efforts to address budget constraints through strategic planning and discussions of long-term institutional priorities. Chairs also highlighted concerns about faculty and staff workload, staffing and administrative capacity, and the challenges of maintaining shared governance during a period of sustained financial pressure.

Several chairs reported on work related to artificial intelligence, including strategic planning and the development of recommendations for academic and administrative uses of AI. Other updates focused on research issues, shared governance, and divisional discussions about academic freedom, faculty discipline, and disability accommodations.

Chairs also discussed divisional concerns about the pace of the UCAD Plus initiative. While there was support for a deliberate review process, several expressed concern about accelerating major policy discussions and decisions over the summer. Several emphasized the need to allow adequate time for Senate consultation before considering major program changes or new initiatives.

 Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm
 Minutes prepared by Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director
 Attest: Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Council Chair