



Academic Council
Minutes of Meeting
September 23, 2026

I. Consent Calendar

1. Today's agenda items and their priority
2. October 8, 2026 Assembly Topics

ACTION: Council approved the consent calendar.

II. Executive Session: Labor Relations Update and Updates from Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs/Systemwide Academic Personnel

- Amy K. Lee, Deputy Provost, [Systemwide Academic Personnel](#)
- Melissa Matella, Associate Vice President of [Employee and Labor Relations](#)
- Monica Varsanyi, Vice Provost, [Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs](#)
- Michael Ong, Senate Representative to the Regents [Health Services Committee](#)
- William Teeling, Principal Counsel, [UC Legal](#)

III. Executive Session: Task Force on Clinical Faculty Representation in Governance Report and Recommendations

Council discussed next steps for the Presidential Task Force on Clinical Faculty Representation in Governance Report and Recommendations, which was proposed for a 30-day systemwide review.

ACTION: Council unanimously approved a motion to endorse a systemwide review of the report and recommendations, but to request an extension of the deadline for responding.

IV. Executive Session: Federal Governmental Relations

- Chris Harrington, Associate Vice President, [Federal Governmental Relations](#)

Associate Vice President Harrington discussed the federal policy landscape and its implications for UC, including recent legislative, regulatory, administrative, and funding developments; UC's advocacy priorities; and areas where faculty engagement or Senate input could be helpful.

V. Senate Officers' Announcements

- Susannah Scott, Chair, Academic Council
- Amani Nuru-Jeter, Vice Chair, Academic Council
- Monica Lin, Executive Director, Academic Senate

Federal Policy and International Students: Chair Scott thanked divisions for responding to the U.S. Department of Education's proposed accreditation regulations and encouraged Council members to review the [UC comment letter](#), which incorporated concerns raised by the Academic Senate.

She noted continuing uncertainty affecting international students, including litigation concerning proposed changes to duration-of-status rules and possible changes affecting Optional Practical Training.

September Regents Meeting: Chair Scott's [remarks to the Regents](#) emphasized that UC's academic excellence depends on continued investment in faculty and the staff who support them. She highlighted the disparity between growth in student enrollment and growth in ladder-rank

faculty and its effects on course availability and educational quality. Regents subsequently called for greater attention to measures of educational quality alongside enrollment growth and asked for an update at the November Board meeting.

Regents Chair Anguiano identified her priorities as expanding access to UC for Californians, advancing public leadership in artificial intelligence, strengthening UC's long-term financial sustainability, and redefining college readiness. Related presentations and public listening sessions are planned for the 2026–27 academic year, with the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools ([BOARS](#)) participating in the college-readiness work.

Other meeting topics included the potential financial impact on UC Health of federal changes to Medicare and Medicaid reimbursements and eligibility requirements; UC's recent investment performance and the funded status of the UC Retirement Plan (UCRP); operating budget pressures associated with health benefit and retirement costs; and a preliminary finding from the Total Remuneration Study.

Artificial Intelligence: Chair Scott noted the first progress report from the president's AI Steering Committee, including work related to cybersecurity, teaching and learning, and five areas of focus: health; learning and work; discovery and innovation; risk and ethics; and public good.

UC Online, Provost Search, and Governance: Chair Scott also reported continued discussions with UC leaders about the Senate's [request](#) for more meaningful consultation regarding UC Online; noted that the search for a permanent systemwide provost is underway and that she is serving on the search committee; and reported that the Regents approved amendments to [Regents Bylaw 40](#), clarifying the Senate's authority to determine its membership.

VI. Office of State Governmental Relations ([SGR](#))

○ Kathleen Fullerton, Associate Vice President & Director, SGR

Associate Vice President Fullerton provided an update on the recently concluded state legislative session and previewed issues expected to be prominent in Sacramento in the coming year. She reviewed several bills of particular interest to UC, including measures related to the use of AI in clinical settings, campus time-place-manner policies, student housing, and a proposed research bond for the 2028 ballot.

She also discussed the state budget outlook and anticipated policy priorities, noting likely continued attention to AI, student preparation and standardized testing, and health care. She emphasized that federal changes affecting Medicaid and Medi-Cal could create significant financial pressures for UC Health and the state.

VII. Reports from Division Chairs

Division chairs identified budget pressures and resource allocation as continuing concerns across campuses, including structural deficits, development of new budget models, and growing interest in budget models tied more directly to instructional costs. Several chairs emphasized the need for meaningful Senate participation in budget planning and broader systemwide discussion of resource allocation models.

Divisional Senates are also addressing the responsible use of AI in teaching, research, and administration; academic integrity; and the acquisition and governance of AI tools. More broadly,

chairs stressed the importance of meaningful Senate consultation on administrative decisions affecting teaching, technology, budgeting, strategic planning, and academic personnel.

Several campuses are addressing enrollment management, academic planning, and student preparation, including pressures on highly impacted majors, movement among majors, advising, and general education requirements. Chairs emphasized the need to align enrollment decisions with instructional capacity and longer-term academic planning.

Chairs also raised concerns about the rising cost of employing graduate students and challenges in sustaining graduate enrollment and research opportunities. Several divisions are undertaking broader reviews of graduate education and research administration in response.

VIII. Charges to BOARS

- **David Volz, Chair, Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools ([BOARS](#))**

BOARS Chair Volz provided an update on the committee's work in response to Council's [charge](#) to assess the potential advantages and disadvantages of using standardized testing in UC undergraduate admissions. He reviewed BOARS' planned evidence-based review and consultation process, which will include engagement with UC experts, admissions and enrollment leaders, testing organizations, students, K-12 partners, and others.

BOARS expects to devote its initial meetings this year to the review and will develop policy recommendations for Council's consideration in early 2027. Chair Scott emphasized the importance of allowing BOARS to conduct an independent, evidence-based process and noted that Council will receive additional updates as the work progresses.

IX. Consultation with Senior Executive Leadership

- **Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, [UC Finance](#)**

CFO Brostrom provided an overview of UC's current financial position. He noted continued strong student demand for a UC education, increased state support, and favorable investment performance, including improved funding of the UC Retirement Plan. At the same time, he emphasized that many campuses face structural budget challenges as the growth of expenses, particularly for compensation and benefits, has outpaced the growth of revenues.

He identified several areas of ongoing financial risk, including uncertainty in federal research funding and indirect cost recovery, potential reductions in health care revenues, rising benefit costs, and continuing needs for capital renewal and deferred maintenance. He also noted that UC Health now represents a substantial share of UC's overall financial activity, increasing the importance of changes in federal and state health policy to UC's financial outlook. He concluded that UC remains financially strong overall, but faces a more uncertain environment than in recent years, with significant pressures across research, health care, and core campus operations.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm

Minutes prepared by Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director

Attest: Susannah Scott, Academic Council Chair