



Academic Council
Minutes of Special Meeting
April 8, 2025

I. Statement on Defending the University of California

Several Council members collaborated to draft a statement for Council's consideration. The statement is a call to action and a reaffirmation of the University's public mission in the face of threats to higher education nationwide. It highlights the essential role of shared governance and urges President Drake, UC campus chancellors, and UC Regents to take bold, coordinated steps to protect academic freedom, institutional autonomy, and the safety and privacy of UC faculty, students, and staff. The statement is focused on values, not strategy.

ACTION: Council unanimously approved the statement.

II. Enabling Student Degree Completion

Provost Newman has asked the systemwide Academic Senate to consider how the University can provide guidance on academic support for undergraduate and graduate students in good academic standing who are unable to complete their UC degree on a UC campus. Possible approaches include student-specific accommodations allowing online completion of outstanding degree requirements and expedited exceptions or waivers to existing policies to permit remote course and degree program completion.

Chair Cheung has asked UCEP and CCGA to develop systemwide guidelines that address proximity to graduation, flexibility in the timeline for degree completion, cross-campus enrollment options, and tuition and fee policies for remote students. UCEP and CCGA were also asked to examine available policy tools (such as emergency terms or exceptions to senior residency requirements) and provide procedural recommendations.

- Council members expressed strong support for assisting students whose lives and education have been disrupted. It was noted that the Senate eased certain rules during the COVID-19 pandemic to enable transition to remote instruction, and that a consistent, coordinated response across campuses will be helpful.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am
Minutes prepared by Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director
Attest: Steven W. Cheung, Academic Council Chair