



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA Academic
Senate

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS
Friday, October 10, 2025

Meeting Minutes

I. Consultation with the Senate Leadership

Academic Council Chair Ahmet Palazoglu and Vice Chair Susannah Scott joined the meeting to talk about their expectations for UCACC for the year in light of the attention to the rollout of endpoint detection and response (EDR) software on the campuses, and to summarize some of the current issues facing the Academic Senate.

At the first meeting of the Assembly of the Academic Senate in the current academic year, held on October 9, 2025, UC President James Milliken responded to questions about the EDR rollout by saying that the university needs to balance privacy with security risk.

Chair Palazoglu suggested that UCACC draft guidelines to disseminate to campuses with examples for reporting about privacy controls and data management for any new systemwide software deployment. The Senate would like to ensure consistency and transparency systemwide, and for each campus to have a designated board to oversee EDR and similar initiatives. With the amount of pushback from faculty on EDR, Palazoglu sees this as a high priority for UCACC this year, as well as an ongoing concern. He noted that while the Senate does not control information technology decisions, it serves an important advisory role that is generally appreciated by the administration.

UCACC will also be focusing on the lines of communication between administration and faculty, and between systemwide and campuses.

In other news from the university, two items brought up by President Milliken at yesterday's meeting and on everyone's radar were the UCLA threat letter from the federal government, which UC said it was open to discuss, and the release of names from UC Berkeley to the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights. Members noted that the government seems to be taking a different approach now, with the recent "compact" offered to a selection of universities (none of which were UCs).

Last Friday, the systemwide Academic Council issued a statement¹ saying that it will not accept any limitation on academic freedom by the government. Another statement from the Academic Council is expected soon.

The Systemwide Academic Senate is in the process of forming new workgroups. One is a successor to last spring's Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions (UCAD), which issued an interim report and recommendations in the summer. The joint Academic Senate-Administration Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions ("UCAD-Plus") will add UC administrators to the group

¹ https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/_files/reports/council-chair-to-president-council-statement-ucla-demand-letter.pdf

and will focus on the implementation of UCAD's recommendations. A letter explaining the initiative will be sent to faculty systemwide.

A task force on the Performance of Undergraduate Degree Programs (PUDP) has been formed to discuss quality and assessment of online degree programs going forward.

Revisions to the Academic Personnel Manual (APM) regarding faculty discipline guidelines are currently out for systemwide review with comments due in November. The feedback and next steps will be discussed at the Academic Council meeting in November and at the Assembly meeting in January. The systemwide Committee on Privilege and Tenure (UCPT) will review the responses. Faculty are particularly concerned about Attachment B of the guidance document, which pertains to extramural speech and expressive activities.

II. UCACC Background and Priorities

UCACC Chair Ilya Brookwell welcomed committee members and led introductions. He explained that as a Senate committee, UCACC can advise the administrators with whom it consults directly, and can also elevate issues to the Academic Council (the systemwide executive committee of the Senate). One of UCACC's key functions is communicating about what is happening at the campuses. Via Chair Brookwell's position on the CIO Council – as an ex-officio member – UCACC can also convey important issues of the faculty directly to the UC Chief Information Officers.

Throughout the year, UCACC members will have the opportunity to make structured, practical, and constructive recommendations to the administration in a unified way as a committee of the Academic Senate.

Cybersecurity and Privacy

Campuses are well into implementation of President Drake's information security mandate from last year.

Artificial Intelligence (in the classroom and administrative)

The administration is very interested in artificial intelligence and starting to plan for a UC-based AI infrastructure. Computer science departments feel that UC is falling behind because of an inability to compete with the infrastructure available in the private sector, and centralizing systems for high performance computing could bring efficiencies.

AI is also seen by many in the administration as bringing savings in personnel cost. As an example, several UC campuses participated in a grand challenge for leveraging AI in the classroom for \$1.5 million. Campuses can make individual agreements with AI platforms such as ChatGPT, Gemini, and CoPilot that are licensed systemwide, and many are implementing local agentic AI systems.

Campuses Systemwide IT Procurement

UCACC has the opportunity to review and provide feedback on UC's systemwide contracts with IT vendors. A question arose about whether these vendors are asked to comply with the same security requirements that UC mandates internally.

IT Policies, including new IT Accessibility Policy and Revision of IS-3

Compliance with the new policy on IT accessibility is a priority of the CIOs due to federal mandates that take effect in April 2026. All online materials, including those in learning management systems, need to be fully accessible to those with disabilities, including proper tagging, captioning, etc. UC will provide guidance, but it is a big change that will likely add work for faculty.

CIO Council Debrief

Chair Brookwell attended the two-day CIO Council meeting in Oakland earlier in the week. He observed that the CIOs understand the concerns of the faculty around cybersecurity and in most cases are trying to work with faculty groups.

III. Consultation with UCOP's Information Technology Services

UC Chief Information Officer and Vice President Van Williams and Chief Information Security Officer Monte Ratzlaff joined the meeting to discuss cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, policy updates, and other information technology issues.

Cybersecurity

Last year a primary concern of ITS was the implementation of President Drake's February cybersecurity letter, which was issued at the behest of the Board of Regents. At the systemwide level, the primary focus was coordination of the deployment of multifactor authentication (MFA) and endpoint detection and response (EDR) software and ensuring compliance. The intent of the effort was to strengthen cyber risk management to better protect against cyber-attacks and security breaches. UC's current cybersecurity program started in 2015 after a large data breach at UCLA.

CIOs report over 90% compliance with cybersecurity requirements. VP Williams acknowledged that there were communication issues on this project, especially regarding privacy and transparency for the EDR software. Williams said that he is convening a systemwide workgroup to review EDR transparency and privacy standards. The draft charge will be circulated to UCACC. Williams is interested in hearing from faculty about how cybersecurity program information can be clearly conveyed to the UC community.

CIOs and CISOs are working on a set of annual cybersecurity goals to present to the president in March. Williams will share the draft goals with UCACC for feedback.

The decision about UC's next EDR software license will be finalized in January 2026. The capabilities of the system will be described along with the rollout. UCACC noted that it would like to be involved in campus messaging about the RFP decision and any changes. The locus of the messaging would likely be campus IT committees, as implementation will differ by location.

Ratzlaff also mentioned a new privacy program within the administration. He will provide more information.

Research Data Security

UCOP has convened a Research Data Security workgroup to better understand UC locations' experiences with research cybersecurity and framework compliance (e.g., CMMC, NSPM33, NIH, etc.). Workgroup members are sharing information on operational challenges, compliance practices and efforts, collaboration, and general research cybersecurity program status.

Artificial Intelligence

The September Regents' meeting featured a presentation about artificial intelligence² during a general Board session. AI is a priority of the new UC president, who started off the presentation.³ President Milliken would like UC to be a leader in the area and has proposed strategic approaches that were outlined in the presentations accompanying materials: 1) Scaling innovation – leveraging

² <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/sept25/b3.pdf>

³ <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/videos/sept2025/sept2025.html#boardaudit>

work happening at the local level with incentives and awareness; 2) Fostering strategic partnerships such as research grant programs for faculty, where third parties donate software or contribute financially; and 3) Preparing California's workforce – education and skill development for employees.

Central Risk Unit update

The UC central risk unit has developed a new methodology based on NIST CSF to streamline Vendor Risk Assessments.

IT Policies

A new [UC IT Accessibility Policy](#) is currently out for formal systemwide review.

UC's Electronic Information Security policy ([IS-3](#)) is undergoing review and revision. Deloitte consulting conducted an assessment and suggested ways to clarify, simplify, and update the policy. The full review will follow UC's standard systemwide review process and include faculty consultation.

UC is finalizing an RFP (request for proposals) for a new security awareness training vendor. Compliance in this area is part of UC policy and legal requirements.

Discussion

In discussion about the IT updates, UCACC members wondered if the selection of a different EDR vendor would alleviate fears about potential involvement with the federal government. One of the points of the faculty's resolution was objection to Trellix's participation in the Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative. UC has an Electronic Communications Policy and every vendor must comply. UCACC members asked whether there any auditing of the vendors. UC generally conducts compliance review on a larger scale, with robust legal protections, but there is a potential for technical auditing mechanisms.

UCACC members reiterated the need for improved communication, including putting any changes into context for a faculty member, researcher, etc. The IT administrators can ask faculty about the support or services they need, rather than announcing mandates without context. Of course, additional funding to provide more services would help, but just listening to faculty concerns can go a long way.

IV. Consultation with UC Systemwide IT Strategic Sourcing

Roshni Pratap, the Director of IT Strategic Sourcing, joined the meeting along with IT Strategic Sourcing Manager Michael Wegmann, who is leading the EDR RFP process.

Adobe Student License Program

UC has a systemwide license with Adobe and is able to offer significant student discounts for the software, but it needs more uptake to maximize the impact. Faculty are also able to take advantage of a significant discount for Adobe Creative Cloud. UCACC members were asked to spread the word about this program within their schools and advocate for the program with campus IT teams and administration. The program is available at Davis, Irvine, San Diego, San Francisco, and Santa Barbara. It is currently limited to continuing education only at Berkeley, UCLA, Merced, and Santa Cruz.

EDR RFP Update

The RFP for a replacement EDR solution yielded 31 submissions in six different categories. Each category was assessed for cost, security, privacy, and more. The final announcement will be made in January.

Resellers for Technology Solutions

Wegmann introduced an effort by ITS to find a new “technology solutions strategy” to centralize and streamline procurement. Currently, UC procurement is decentralized and fragmented. There are more than a thousand software suppliers across the system that could potentially be bundled and offered by resellers.

AI Tools

UC offers a variety of artificial intelligence tools, depending on location. There are systemwide agreements in place with OpenAI for ChatGPT Enterprise and EDU, Microsoft CoPilot Chat and Enterprise, and Google Workspace and Cloud. The licenses offer discounts, but campuses pay for their local use.

Following up on a discussion from last year, it was noted that OpenAI did not meet their data residency requirement, so there is a legal recommendation regarding its use. The main thing is not to use ChatGPT for P4 data. UC’s licenses for generative AI tools include FERPA protections and data security, and are safer to use than public versions.

V. Campus Reports - Round Robin

UCACC members described the relevant academic computing and communication topics from their campuses.

UCB: Last year, a request from UC Berkeley’s CIT resulted in a new option 5TB of space offered to research faculty. Although it’s not as easy as Google storage, the committee is happy with this result. AI is both worrying and exciting. The divisional Senate asked for feedback from all committees about licensing AI and communications about how licensed versions are better than free due to data protections. Implementation of EDR has been an ongoing challenge. The division sent a letter to systemwide about its concerns, but there have since been meetings with IT administrators regarding privacy.

UCD: The UC Davis CIT has been vocal about the lack of a finalized information security implementation plan and the absence of assurance about compliance with UC’s Electronic Communications Policy. The chancellor finally noticed and is convening a Cybersecurity Governance Committee that will produce a plan for a cybersecurity governance structure to be implemented by the end of the year. As at other campuses, EDR compliance is an issue. Other local topics include AI, and determining what skills and knowledge would be the most valuable for students given the availability of AI.

UCR: EDR implementation has been confusing and challenging. UC Riverside’s local committee recently met with the divisional chair to discuss how to improve communication between IT administration and faculty. The campus community has been informed about the work needing to be done to comply with new IT accessibility requirements. There is concern about AI and its impact on student learning, teaching, research, etc. Gemini has been embedded into Canvas and can be turned on (or not). There is a call for the Senate AI task force to generate a policy on consistent use of AI. UCR has an Artificial Intelligence Research and Education Institute that is involved in various

areas including investigation into practices that AI can be used for. It is piloting a program that monitors student engagement for intervention with students falling behind.

UCLA: The Senate is working on defining a new committee on Academic Computing where the Senate can have some authority and not just be advisory. UCLA is engaged in discussions around issues with shared governance. UCLA's IT is undergoing a consolidation effort, in large part without Senate input. The local committee has heard from the IT administrators that UCLA is the least compliant in cybersecurity. Upcoming topics include AI governance issues and sufficient Senate participation.

UCSC: Cybersecurity rollout has proceeded relatively smoothly at UC Santa Cruz. There was a lot of consultation and input from faculty from the beginning. The campus is granting exceptions for those who need it and offering a workaround. Similarly, the faculty and administration are working together to comply with new IT accessibility mandates, focusing on large courses first. There was a question about liability and whether the instructor is legally responsible for compliance.

UC seems to be interpreting the law to mean that only new materials must be compliant after the deadline, not existing ones.

UCM: EDR rollout has gone more smoothly at UC Merced than other campuses.

UCSB: UC Santa Barbara's Senate IT committee is a subgroup of a larger council, but the structure is changing this year. Like the other campuses, the big issues are EDR and AI.

Faculty AI Workgroup: UCACC's Vice Chair Lisa Yeo participates in the systemwide Senate's AI Workgroup, which was convened in the spring and will release a report before the end of the year. The group has a draft report, but it will be revised to include more about workload implications. Other topics in the report include prospective efficiencies, implications for assessments, pedagogy, and academic integrity. The group will recommend that faculty have input into procurement and large-scale computing investments. AAUP recently released a report on Artificial Intelligence and Academic Professions.⁴

Students: UCACC's undergraduate representative noted that AI is a big concern for students as well. She sees a huge marketing push by AI companies on college campuses. More resources and access to the latest software are appreciated.

VI. Systemwide Issues Under Review

Committee members will review the [Proposed Presidential Policy on Information Technology Accessibility](#) (comments due December 10, 2025) and determine whether to comment.

VII. Wrap up and Next Steps

At the end of the meeting, Chair Brookwell provided more information about the CIO Council meeting that he attended, and the meeting of CIOs and Vice Chancellors for Research, who met for the first time in several years to discuss how to scale AI for the benefit of UC. There is great interest in creating a systemwide data center for AI and high-performance computing. The Director of the UCSD Supercomputer Center spoke at the meeting.

⁴ <https://www.aaup.org/reports-publications/aaup-policies-reports/topical-reports/artificial-intelligence-and-academic>

To pay for the new center, the administration is considering options including generating funds by selling access to outside entities, partnering with leaders in the industry, or using private and donor-based funding. IT administrators believe that AI will decrease IT costs in the long run by streamlining, finding efficiencies, and reducing FTE, which of course brings resistance from unions that see threats to jobs. There would also be a big environmental impact due to high energy use.

UCACC members briefly discussed these issues and will continue the discussion in meetings later in the year.

Meeting adjourned: 2:35pm

Meeting minutes prepared by: Joanne Miller, UCACC analyst

Attest: Ilya Brookwell, UCACC Chair

Meeting participants:

Ilya Brookwell (Chair, UCR), Lisa Yeo (Vice Chair, UCM), John Kubiatowicz (Berkeley), Jeremy Mason (Davis), Gregory Leazer (UCLA), Yiwei Wang (Merced), Cathy Lussier (Riverside), Duygu Tosun-Turgut (UCSF), Christopher Kruegel (Santa Barbara), Jerome Fiechter (Santa Cruz), Ahmet Palazoglu (Academic Council Chair), Susannah Scott (Academic Council Vice Chair), Aatmi Mehta (Undergraduate Student, UCLA), Van Williams (Chief Information Officer and VP for Information Technology Services), Monte Ratzlaff (UC Chief Information Security Officer), Roshni Pratap (Director of UC IT Strategic Sourcing) Michael Wegmann (Strategic Sourcing Manager, UCOP)