



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Friday, April 24, 2026

Meeting Minutes

I. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Academic Council Chair Ahmet Palazoglu and Vice Chair Susannah Scott joined the meeting to provide updates on current issues facing the Academic Senate.

Contract negotiations – A new agreement was reached with the union representing graduate students that will cover the next four years. Provost Newman sent a letter on March 25 to faculty providing details of the agreement, including changes to the wage structure. The current language should strengthen the university's ability to differentiate between academic progress and salaried work. The salary increases will put pressure on core funds and faculty grants, but the multi-year contract should provide some stability. Some details are still being worked out between labor relations and the union.

Negotiations with the Unit 18 Lecturers union, whose contract expires at the end of June, have begun. Former Academic Senate Chair Robert May is a member of UC's negotiating team.

Incoming Senate Vice Chair – UC Berkeley Professor Amani Nuru-Jeter was selected as systemwide Senate vice chair for 2026-27.

IT Accessibility Policy – The US Department of Justice postponed the deadline for implementation of ADA Title II digital accessibility compliance by one year. UC's policy is already in place and UC locations are continuing to follow its requirements. The extension offers some flexibility in priority-setting, but it does not change expectations for UC employees.

UCAD Plus – The joint task force is working on resiliency strategies for moving forward with recommendations. A parallel administrative group is working on operational efficiencies.

II. Consultation with UCOP's Digital Information & Technology

1. Digital Security (with UC IT Sourcing Interim Director Michael Wegmann and Chief Information Security Officer Monte Ratzlaff)

UC IT Sourcing Interim Director Michael Wegmann provided an update on the final stages of systemwide contract negotiations with new digital security vendors, including for endpoint detection and response (EDR). UC has negotiated for assurances regarding privacy, risk, indemnification, and limitation of liability.

UCACC members were interested to learn that the EDR vendor has an operating model that can carve out systems for three distinct tiers. This could potentially provide flexibility to users; the details will be worked out by location.

Wegmann and Chief Information Security Officer Monte Ratzlaff noted that all UC locations have exception processes for those who have good reason to opt-out of EDR. Either a committee or an individual assesses the level of risk on a case-by-case basis and makes an informed decision.

Communication about the new system to the UC community will be a joint effort from systemwide and local IT units.

2. IT Accessibility updates (*with Chief Digital Experience and Engagement Officer Kate Miffitt, Director of Application Engineering Judy Thai, and UC Legal Principal Counsel Trevor Finneman*)

UC systemwide administrators joined the meeting to provide an update on the UC IT Accessibility Policy and requirements. A portion of the federal law was recently postponed, which may have led to some confusion. UC's policy¹ was issued in March and UC is continuing to follow existing plans to meet the requirements. The extension offers some flexibility in setting priorities but does not reduce the work or expectations. Focus should remain on high-impact areas, such as public-facing websites, high-volume instructional materials, and new content. The partial postponement allows more time for development of resources, governance structures, and accountability processes. UC is starting to pilot a PDF remediation tool that uses AI. There is a centralized hub for digital accessibility information, but it is best if faculty start with local resources to find help.

UCACC members had questions about specific situations that are arising on the campuses, such as transcribing chemical formulas and mathematical equations, the use of LaTeX, and capturing hand-written annotations that are done in real time in lectures. There were also questions about how the policy applies to material that is not distributed. The administrators noted that there will be discipline-specific challenges, but new tools and practical solutions can generally be found.

3. Central Risk Unit update (*Chief Information Security Officer Monte Ratzlaff*)

UC's Central Risk Unit recently released a new risk assessment methodology focusing on business and technological risk that is intended to give locations a guide for performing vendor risk assessments. The unit is finalizing a new compliance tool that will expedite systemwide vendor and enterprise risk assessments by determining if an assessment has already been done and can be customized.

III. Research Data Management at UCSF

Mandy Terrill, Associate Chief Information Officer for Research at UC San Francisco, joined the meeting to talk about infrastructure support for researchers at UCSF. Terrill's position reports to both the vice chancellor for research and chief information officer. UCSF supports researchers with tools, computing environments, and personnel. She noted the exponential growth in computing needs and reshaping of priorities brought by AI and machine learning.

UCSF, which uses a re-charge model, provides subsidized storage to researchers at a set amount per terabyte per year. There is no maximum, although faculty are encouraged to archive data in cold storage rather than the expensive accessible storage when possible.

¹ <https://www.ucop.edu/electronic-accessibility/initiative/policy.html>

Terrill encourages IT admins to talk to faculty and get feedback regularly for any project. She was optimistic that working together as a system would have benefits for UC, such as in obtaining economies of scale or consistency of tools across the campuses in areas including data storage, research IT standardization efforts, and collaborations with industry partners.

Asked about SB53 and the “CalCompute” initiative, Terrill opined that partnering with industry would benefit a UC effort to build AI infrastructure. There are tech companies in CA who can build a system and provide CPUs while UC provides data and training for models.

IV. Chair’s announcements: CIO Council, AI statement, and approval of minutes

- ***UC CIO Council Meeting Debrief***

Chair Brookwell attended the March CIO meeting, which was held in person at the Berkeley Lab. The group was able to see the new computing hardware on site that is part of a partnership with Nvidia. The CIOs talked about AI related topics, including using agentic AI to improve pedagogy and ease faculty burden in a time of budget reductions.

The CIOs are considering various models for UC to move forward on high performance computing. One is a regional consortium using federal funding. The second answers the legislature's [Senate Bill 53](#), the State-led public “CalCompute” initiative that includes public and private entities. A couple of the campuses are already engaged in this, although the funding has not yet been appropriated and there are many details to be worked out. The third model would be one led by UC. UC President James B. Milliken has assembled a steering committee with faculty and administrative representation to investigate how UC can develop innovative and responsible AI initiatives.

- ***Artificial Intelligence Oversight at UC***

Chair Brookwell is part of a group supported by the UC Humanities Research Institute (UCHRI) that is looking critically at UC’s intention for AI growth. The group drafted a statement that Brookwell shared with UCACC and subsequently with CIO Van Williams. The signatories note that AI development will require significant investment, engineering, and oversight. The statement says that UC has both the opportunity and the responsibility to shape how AI serves educational priorities and to set a global standard for ethical technological integration. It includes five principles, including support for interdisciplinary experimentation, inclusion of humanities and humanistic expertise in decision-making, protecting data privacy, ensuring transparency, and maintaining active stewardship.

UCACC discussed whether the group might make its own statement or endorse the UCHRI one. Regardless, the letter will be kept for UCACC reference.

- ***Artificial intelligence topics (Members)***

Members briefly talked about Claude Mythos, a new level of AI agent from Anthropic that has serious security implications. (News stories were just coming out in the popular press.) Some see an opportunity as well as a challenge.

A member mentioned a new book by UC Irvine Law Professor Shauhin A. Talesh (and published by UC Press) about the increasing influence of the insurance industry on cybersecurity, privacy law compliance, and risk management.

- **Meeting minutes approval**

Action taken: UCACC meeting minutes from 02/27/2026 were approved.

V. Committee Discussion and Campus Reports (*Round Robin*)

UCACC members discussed academic computing and communication topics from the meeting and provided IT-related updates from their divisional committees and campuses.

UC Riverside: UCR is making good progress on IT accessibility compliance, although the message is still getting out. Employing student workers for hands-on help has proven very successful, and eleven student workers will be funded for another year. A Senate-Admin AI Council has been formed to discuss issues related to research and teaching, including potential policy development. Some faculty are concerned about updates to EDR.

UCLA: Faculty are concerned about an administrative initiative that consolidates IT support, particularly around cybersecurity. The local committee wrote a resolution that was passed by the legislative assembly. Faculty are also concerned about cybersecurity related to EDR, and lack of shared governance.

UC Irvine: CORCL hosted former systemwide Senate Chair Jim Steintrager, who also chaired the Senate's AI Workgroup, to discuss the workgroup's report and recommendations. Faculty are trying to stay involved in data governance, although many concerns are discipline-based and AI guidelines and principles will be developed at the department level. Faculty have expressed concerns about specific instances where it seems challenging to comply with IT accessibility mandates.

UC Davis: UC Davis announced that it renewed its contract for ChatGPT Edu. The campus is undertaking efforts for IT accessibility compliance. The divisional chair has asked for an Accessible Course Content program to be provided via the Disability Office. The campus has an AI Council with subcommittees. UC Davis Health is reviewing data security, privacy, and transparency for applications of AI to be vetted. The CIO is developing a new structure for IT governance. The local committee will work to create a privacy balancing document that can be adapted and used by administrators involved in EDR and cybersecurity.

UC Santa Cruz: The local committee met with IT administrators working on IT accessibility compliance. UCSC staff have licensed access to Google Gemini Chat, but not faculty. Consultation with the Academic Senate is underway about extending access to faculty and students.

UC Berkeley: Progress on the NASA Ames center continues with even more funding. UC Berkeley has several AI committees, and the provost's office is working on guidelines for the appropriate use of agentic AI. A policy on the privacy of electronic communications is being revised.

Undergraduate representative Aatmi Mehta (UCLA): As a graduating senior, digital storage and email access for alumni were top of mind. This will be important to some graduates as they leave the University. Regarding AI use, Mehta's suggestion was that it be cited like other resources, such as a citation or resource statement. Expectations should also be clearly stated in course syllabi, with standards adopted by department.

Also note: Based on a question that arose about whether campuses have their own policies for EDR oversight, the committee analyst will add a column for “EDR governance” to the IT Governance Structures [shared chart](#).

Meeting adjourned: 1:35pm

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCACC committee analyst

Attest: Ilya Brookwell, UCACC chair

Committee member participants:

Ilya Brookwell (Chair, UCR), Lisa Yeo (Vice Chair, UCM), John Kubiadowicz (Berkeley), Jeremy Mason (Davis), Iftekhar Ahmed (Irvine), Gregory Leazer (UCLA), John Franchak/Cathy Lussier (Riverside), Barry Grant (San Diego), Christopher Kruegel (Santa Barbara), Jerome Fiechter/Zac Zimmer (Santa Cruz), Ahmet Palazoglu (Academic Council Chair), Susannah Scott (Academic Council Vice Chair), Aatmi Mehta (Undergraduate Student, UCLA), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst)