



**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

**I. *Approval of the Agenda and Minutes***

***Action Taken: The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed 8-0-0.***

**II. **Chair's Report****

*Chair Barry O'Neill*

The Chair went over the revisions to APM 015 and 016, and said he was glad that what the Senate proposed had been accepted by the Regents. The discussion about extramural speech is continuing. He remarked that he is part of a Senate/ administrative task force that is looking at answering questions regarding expressive activities. He asked members to forward him any questions or thoughts related to the topic.

**III. **Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership****

*Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Chair*

*Susannah Scott, Academic Senate Vice Chair*

Senate Chair Palazoglu remarked that the fall census showed that undergraduate enrollment levels have exceeded all expectations and set a new record. The number of international graduate students has gone down a bit.

At his remarks to the Regents, the Chair highlighted the challenges the faculty are facing and the importance of preserving the identity of UC as an R1 university. He added that UC has reached a tentative contract agreement with the UAW, which has averted a strike. The union members are now working to ratify the agreement, and the outcome should be announced soon. The Unit 18 Lecturers will be out of contract in June, and the University is preparing for those negotiations.

The governor's January budget proposal was quite favorable to higher education and included a seven percent increase for ongoing funds; the situation is very good. However, when revenues exceed a certain threshold, a Gann Limit might be triggered. This means the taxpayers would receive some rebates, but there still will be some one-time allocations for things like capital projects.

The Weiner bill is worth \$23B and would support science and health research. UC is now co-sponsoring the bill, which is also being supported by UAW.

UC is in negotiations with the publisher ACS and has been out of contract since the beginning of the year. The ACS is threatening to withhold access to the journals; if that does happen it will impact UC.

#### **IV. Questions of Instructor Behavior in the Classroom**

The Chair noted that the Regents have a bylaw against indoctrination in class. However, the definition of indoctrination is somewhat unclear.

This sparked considerable discussion about APM 010 and Regents' policy 2301.

#### **V. Ways to Spread Academic Freedom Consciousness on the Campuses**

Members discussed strategies (such as campus debates) to try to bring the concept of academic freedom to the forefront of campus life.

#### **VI. "Creating Opportunities" Report and Academic Freedom**

The Chair introduced the document, which had been issued by IRAP.

[Expanding opportunity: Chemistry, Math and the future of STEM at UC | UCOP](#)

After extensive discussion, it was determined that UCAF would draft a letter to Council expressing concerns about the report. The letter might involve a collaboration with CCGA and UCEP.

#### **VII. Campus and Student Reports**

Members shared items related to academic freedom from their campuses.

#### **VIII. Expressive Activities Group Update**

This topic had already been covered earlier in the meeting.

#### **IX. UCAF and Academic Council**

The Chair remarked that he had asked for volunteers to look into ways to get UCAF on Academic Council; there is concern that issues pertaining to academic freedom are not sufficiently addressed by Council, and that UCAF could add a valuable perspective. Professor Schipper (UCD) volunteered to work with others on this effort.

**X. *Systemwide Information and Items Under Systemwide Review***

- A. Chair Palazoglu's Remarks to the Board of Regents
- B. Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Anatomical Donation Program and Anatomical Materials
- C. Systemwide Senate Review of Proposal to Establish a Systemwide Academic Senate Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability
- D. Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw 192 and Senate Regulations 636 and 761
- E. Systemwide Senate Review Tribal Lands Workgroup Report

**XI. *New Business***

Vice Chair Hasenstaub raised an issue from UCSF related to tenure lines.

Professor Schipper raised the issue of PIN being released by the administration and the lack of communication regarding it.

Professor Izadi raised the issue of after-action reports with campus police.

**XII. *Executive Session***

Executive Session was not held.

The committee adjourned at 2:56 p.m.