



**University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE)
Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2026**

Attendance: Brad Queen, Chair; John Tamkun, Vice Chair; Nasser Zakariya, UCB; Emily Penner, UCI; Kie Zuraw, UCLA; Aurora Pribam-Jones, UCM; Agnieszka Jaworska, UCR; Pedro Cabrales Avelo, UCSD; Brian Dolan, UCSF; Rebecca Rios, UCSB; Nicol Hammond, UCSC

I. Chair's Announcements and UCOPE Business

Brad Queen, UCOPE Chair

- Consent Calendar
 - The agenda was approved as noticed.
 - Minutes from December 11, 2025 were approved by an e-vote.
- IB, AP, and Dual Enrollment Updates

Significant cross-committee collaboration was noted (including BOARS, ICAS, and others). Increased ELWR pass rates observed as a result of recalibration of College Board scoring methodology changes. The growth in early college credit participation (as early as 9th grade) raises concerns regarding students' actual academic preparation at the time of college/university matriculation. Other concerns include instructor qualifications for dual enrollment courses taught at high schools, in particular, and the timing allowed for ELWR passage as indicated in SR 636.

An IRAP analysis shows an increase in AP/IB/Honors course-taking overall, as well as persistent equity gaps for first-generation, low-SES, and underrepresented students. Local high school course availability strongly influences student success outcomes at UC. Members suggested a systemwide Institutional Research fee to support improved data collection and data disaggregation by intended major.
- ELWR Coordinating Council (ECC)
 - Annual Report Review

In addition to feedback submitted via BOX, members further suggested standardized summary table across campuses and templates for campus report consistency. Members also noted academic integrity issues (e.g., unproctored assessments), the need for clarity in scoring methodologies, and greater transparency regarding campus placement practices and reporting. Additionally, there is a need for clearer reporting of financial concerns, such as program costs, fee waivers, fee usage, and long-term sustainability. More background and longitudinal data could improve the reports' clarity. The reports' readability for broader audiences could also be improved.
 - Triennial Report Review

Members agreed that ELWR Annual Reports may be skipped in a campus's triennial report year and that standardized templates for these reports would also be beneficial. Such templates should include student success outcomes (pass/fail rates, assessments used, next-course after ELWR completion outcomes, and

assessments of students who get more than 1-year to satisfy ELWR and their success outcomes). Fee usage requires more transparency here, too. Student self-assessment of writing skills is another possible metric to consider.

UCOPE will finalize the draft memo to campuses emphasizing: campus and departmental ECC collaboration expectations, particularly regarding fee and fee usage transparency. The final memo should go to the ECC, the campus analysts, and relevant campus committee chairs.

II. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Council Chair

Susannah Scott, Academic Council Vice Chair

- The governor's January budget proposal was favorable to UC, but the University is awaiting the May revision as the Legislative Analyst's Office projects more conservative outlook. Capital funding remains a concern, and there is potential \$10B housing bond for California's higher education segments to be placed on the November ballot. Also expected on the November ballot is a \$23B California Science and Health Research Bond. Advocacy guidance is expected from State Government Relations and the UC Advocacy Network.
- The Provost has scheduled a math preparation congress for March.
- The Provost also seeks to expand international partnerships, possibly following UK/Europe models (e.g., Russell Group).
- The Academic Assembly approved Bylaw changes including 1) conforming changes to Bylaws 195, 336, 015, 016. The proposed UCOPE bylaw revisions is our for systemwide review.
- UAW staff unions passed a strike authorization vote, but contract negotiations are ongoing. Timing of a possible strike could impact finals at quarter campuses. There remains a need for improved communication and FAQs based on prior strike experiences.
- The UCAD final report has been circulated, and the UCAD+ joint Senate-administration workgroup work continues toward a spring release of its report.
- The Performance of Undergraduate Degree Programs (PUDP) task force continues its work, as well. One emphasis is on alignment with UCEP quality principles. Data suggest that student success is tied to engagement and support services, which can lag in online course offerings as opposed to in-person course convenings. Infrastructure and staffing needs were highlighted in the context of providing online courses. A report for systemwide review is expected in the spring.
- Discussions linking STEM preparation and potential SAT reinstatement are ongoing. BOARS has been given special charge to review the University's overall admissions policy, which is expected to be a long-term, cross-committee process.

III. Consultation with Office of the President – Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP)

Matt Reed, Senior Institutional Research and Planning Analyst

Laura Kertz, Senior Equity and Diversity Analyst

Courtney Wilson, Institutional Research and Planning Analyst

Han Mi Yoon Wu, Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director, Undergraduate Enrollment Services, Graduate, Undergraduate and Equity Affairs (GUEA)

- Math Preparation and Placement analyses show mixed findings:

- Calculus performance appears stable in data, but not in practice according to anecdotal reports. Members noted widespread concerns about overreliance on pass rates and grade inflation. Members also noted that many new students need help with middle-school level math concepts, even after matriculation at UC. Inconsistent placement practices across campuses make interpreting the limited systemwide data even more difficult. Student outcomes and equity concerns are tied to high school preparation, specifically access to courses of academic rigor. There remains a need for data that can better illustrate the linkage between placement, assessment, and outcomes; access to systemwide and cross-campus assessment data and placement practices; and on-going analysis of COVID impacts and learning loss, in addition to SAT policy change impacts. Members noted that course-taking patterns and timing in high school may predict success better than GPA. Placement practice variability across majors and campuses complicates the analysis. IRAP analyses would benefit from the development of targeted research questions. UCOPE should encourage the creation of standardized or at least comparable assessment tools across the campuses and might consider pilot programs (e.g., SBAC data integration) to assist statistical analyses.

IV. UCOPE Business (Continued)

- Math & STEM placement practices' efficacy analyses are predicated on the effectiveness of campus placement systems and require comparable cross-campus practices and data submissions, including the impact of class size, delivery modality, and resource constraints. Members suggested that large enrollment courses could be negatively affecting at-risk populations, particularly in terms of a lack of student-instructor interaction. Post-matriculation grade D, F, or Withdrawal (DFW) rates may be effected by initial placement practices, course sequencing in high school, and changes to teaching assistant availability and modality of delivery. Members should prepare data requests and metrics for math placement student success outcomes. A draft charge for a Math Placement Coordinating Council (MPCC), modeled on the ECC charge, will be available for consideration at the next UCOPE meeting.

V. New Business and Further Discussion

None.

Adjournment at 3:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Policy Analyst
Attest: Brad Queen, UCOPE Chair