



University Committee on Preparatory Education (UCOPE)

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2025

Attendance: Bradley Queen, UCOPE Chair; John Tamkum, Vice Chair; Nasser Zakariya, UCB; Timothy Lewis, UCD; Emily Penner, UCI; Kie Zuraw, UCLA; Aurora Pribram-Jones, UCM; Agnieszka Jaworska, UCR; Pedro Cabrales Arevelo, UCSD; Brian Dolan, UCSF; Rebecca Rios, UCSB; Nicol Hammond, UCSC; Madeleine Sorapure, ECC Chair; Karyn Kessler, EMS AG Chair

I. Consent Calendar

- Approval of Agenda
The agenda was approved as noticed.
- Approval of Minutes – October 16, 2025
The minutes from October 16, 2025 were approved via e-vote due to a Box access issue.

II. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Council Chair

Susannah Scott, Academic Council Vice Chair

- The Regents discussed two primary items in November:
 1. A Department of Justice demand letter regarding personally identifiable information (PII).
 2. The proposed 2026–27 budget, including updates to the tuition stability plan and potential requests for state capital funding.
- Academic Council Matters
 1. President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP): The program remains active. Hiring incentives continue and a presidential review process is forthcoming.
 2. APM 015 and 016 Review: Interim guidelines are under development with a deeper review of promotion and tenure policies and attachments. Faculty legal review has recommended revisions. Materials were sent to SWAP for further revision prior to Regents consideration in January.
 3. A systemwide Privilege and Tenure pool may be established if needed, replacing the previously proposed network model and aligning with Senate Bylaw 336 timelines.
- Labor Relations
 1. Agreements with UPTe and CNA have recently concluded.
 2. Negotiations continue with AFSCME and with UAW representing graduate students.
- Administrative Updates

1. The Vice President for Human Resources search is underway. Seven candidates have completed initial Zoom interviews, and finalists will be presented to COO Nava for consideration.
- Task Forces and Working Groups
 1. UCAD Interim Report: Being finalized for review by UCAD+, which includes administrative representatives. Five workgroups are contributing to the report, and initial Regents feedback has been positive.
 2. Presidential Undergraduate Digital Learning Initiative (PUDP): Discussion focused on online instruction and maintaining academic quality. UCEP guidelines regarding quality were referenced. A global language pilot launching in January adds urgency to the work.
 3. Members discussed issues related to program assessment, program closures, and potential legal implications if degree programs are discontinued after students have enrolled.

III. UCOPE Business

- Bylaw and Senate Regulation Revisions
 1. Senate Bylaw 192

The committee approved revisions to Senate Bylaw 192 and agreed to submit them to Academic Council for systemwide review. Members discussed the scope of STEM areas referenced in section B.5 and considered whether mathematics alone should be listed or whether chemistry should remain included.
 2. Senate Regulation 636

Revisions to SR 636 were approved for submission to Academic Council for systemwide review. Discussion included the proposed one-year timeline for completion and the possibility of local exceptions. Members recommended removing the final phrase referencing the Educational Curriculum Committee (ECC) by name.
 3. Senate Regulation 761

Revisions to SR 761 were approved as drafted and will be submitted to Academic Council for systemwide review.
- Public Committee Description

The committee reviewed and approved revisions to UCOPE's public-facing description. The updated description will be reposted promptly.
- EBSS Memo Review and Endorsement

Members reviewed the EBSS memo and agreed that the document could proceed, with additional actions to follow as more data become available. Discussion included the sufficiency of requiring three writing courses and the need for improved student success data from IRAP.
- Math and STEM Placement Practices

The committee noted the UC San Diego Student Academic Working Group (SAWG) report. Further discussion of math preparation and placement practices was postponed until the February meeting.
- Entry-Level Writing Requirement (ELWR) and ECC Matters
 1. Review of ECC Three-Year Reports

Members met in breakout groups to review campus reports and provided feedback through a shared document.

2. ECC Communication Memo

The committee reviewed a memo outlining expectations for communication between the ECC and campus committees. Key topics included:

- Codifying reporting expectations and timelines
- Maintaining annual reporting processes
- Balancing data comparability with campus flexibility
- Financial support for ECC members, including course buy-outs and unfunded labor
- Differences across campuses regarding ELWR fees

Members also discussed placement practices across campuses, including timed writing assessments, surveys, directed self-placement, and portfolio review processes.

The memo was approved with minor additions and will be sent to campuses with the goal of improving communication and coordination.

IV. Task Force Activities

- Entry-Level Writing Requirement Coordinating Council (ECC) Update

Madeleine Sorapure, ECC Chair

1. Additional data are needed before determining whether Advanced Placement (AP) test scores should satisfy the ELWR.
2. Capstone experiences such as seminars and research courses may provide stronger evidence of writing proficiency.
3. Members discussed the need for improved outcome tracking and comparisons across majors.

- ECC Report Debrief

Members discussed strategies for presenting data more clearly in reports, including improved labeling, clearer process explanations, and potentially adding executive summaries. Suggested focus areas for future reports include:

- Completion timelines
- Financial support for instruction and staffing
- Institutional research needs
- Fee structures and program support

Waivers of ELWR deadlines were noted to be primarily associated with budgetary constraints.

- English for Multilingual Students Advisory Group (EMS AG) Update

Karyn Kessler, EMSAG Chair

1. The EMS AG charge is being revised, including expectations for reporting and systemwide inventory of programs.
2. Coordination with ECC continues, and a joint meeting earlier in the year was beneficial.
3. Preliminary data suggest that earlier enrollment in language support courses may improve long-term GPA outcomes.
4. Discussion addressed differences between international enrollment targets and the needs of multilingual or language-learning students.
5. Members discussed instructional staffing models, including the role of continuing lecturers and potential administrative support structures.
6. Proposed term limits for the EMS AG chair and members are two-year terms, renewable once, with a maximum of eight total years of service when exceptions are warranted. Final approval of the revised charge is expected in February.

V. New Business

- The February meeting will include discussion of the UC San Diego report and broader issues related to mathematics preparation and placement.
- Response memos may be circulated between meetings by the chair and vice chair.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Kenneth Feer, Principal Analyst

Attest: Bradley Queen, UCOPE Chair