



August 31, 2026

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Assembly of the
Academic Senate
Faculty Representative,
UC Board of Regents

Academic Senate

Office of the President
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Oakland, CA 94607

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James B. Milliken
President, University of California

Academic Senate Division Chairs, 2025-26 and 2026-27

University Committee on Committees (UCOC) Chairs, 2025-26 and 2026-27

Re: 2025-26 Report on Senate Leadership & Faculty Service

Dear President Milliken, Divisional Senate Chairs, and UCOC Chairs,

I am pleased to forward the enclosed annual Report on Systemwide Senate Leadership & Faculty Service Engagement. I request that Senate division chairs share this report with your divisional council and Committee on Committees.

The report presents:

- A multi-year summary of the distribution of campus faculty who have recently served as systemwide Senate committee chairs; and
- A 2025-26 summary of major University service engagements of faculty representatives on special University committees or joint Senate-administration task forces, committees, and workgroups.

Monitoring faculty representation within the University's shared governance context helps ensure that faculty participation in systemwide Senate leadership roles, and other system-level service opportunities as Senate representatives, is robust and reflective of the UC faculty broadly. As such, the systemwide Senate Office is committed to delivering this report every year, along with the standard annual reports posted on [committee webpages](#) across more than 20 standing and special Senate committees.

CAMPUSES

Berkeley
Davis
Irvine
UCLA
Merced
Riverside
San Diego
San Francisco
Santa Barbara
Santa Cruz

MEDICAL CENTERS

Davis
Irvine
UCLA
San Diego
San Francisco

NATIONAL LABORATORIES

Lawrence Berkeley
Lawrence Livermore
Los Alamos

Looking to the 2026-27 academic year and the challenging work ahead, the Academic Senate will continue its efforts to enhance Senate faculty service in the spirit of shared governance at the University of California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Palazoglu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

Encl.

cc: Academic Council, 2025-26 and 2026-27
Vice President and Chief of Staff Kao
Senate Division Executive Directors
Senate Executive Director Lin



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

2025-26 Report on Systemwide Senate Leadership & Faculty Service Engagement

Submitted by:

Ahmet Palazoglu (UC Davis), Academic Senate Chair

Susannah Scott (UC Santa Barbara), Academic Senate Vice Chair

Monica Lin, Systemwide Senate Executive Director

August 31, 2026

The systemwide [Academic Senate](#) plays a critical part in the University's [shared governance](#), representing over 22,000 faculty who hold Senate membership.¹ Appointed from across the 10 Senate divisions for their experience and expertise, the Senate's faculty leaders include the chairs of systemwide Senate standing committees, members of the [Academic Council](#), and representatives to the [Assembly of the Academic Senate](#). Faculty perspectives are also relayed through deliberative consultation processes involving Senate representatives on joint Senate-administration bodies. These faculty partners exercise the Senate's delegated authority from the Regents in key shared governance processes, including setting conditions for admission and the granting of degrees, authorizing and supervising courses and curricula, and determining academic policy and programs (see [Regents Bylaw 40](#)). Senate leaders represent UC faculty perspectives in consultations with California's other public higher education segments, the California Department of Education, and state legislators as well. The Senate also advises the UC administration on budgets, faculty appointments and promotions, and a wide variety of issues affecting faculty welfare, the academic environment, and other aspects of the University community.

This report presents:

- A multi-year summary of the distribution of campus faculty who have recently served as systemwide Senate standing committee chairs; and
- A 2025-26 summary of major University service engagements of faculty representatives on special University committees or joint Senate-administration task forces, committees, and workgroups.

Tracking this information annually supports identification of opportunities and gaps in Senate service participation, with the aim of strengthening faculty engagement in shared governance and expanding the Senate leadership pipeline.

¹ As defined by [Regents Standing Order 105.1](#) and with some exceptions, Senate membership is granted to individuals who have a ladder-rank or other selected academic appointment at the University.

Multi-Year Summary of Systemwide Senate Committee Leadership

To assess the profile of systemwide Senate leadership service, the below table shows data by campus for the last four years. These counts include the appointed chairs of more than 20 Senate standing committees and task forces, including the Academic Council and any Academic Council special committees for a given year.²

Senate Committee Leadership Service by Campus: 2022-2026

Senate Division	# of Faculty Serving as Systemwide Committee Chairs				
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	4-Year Total
Berkeley	0	0	1	2	3
Davis	5	4	4	3	16
Irvine	5	4	2	3	14
Los Angeles	3	4	4	3	14
Merced	1	3	2	1	7
Riverside	2	1	2	4	9
San Diego	3	3	2	2	10
San Francisco	2	2	3	1	8
Santa Barbara	1	1	1	0	3
Santa Cruz	1	2	1	2	6
Total	23	24	22	21	

Campus representation in systemwide committee leadership varies widely. Four divisions (Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego) have 4-year totals of 10 or more. Another three (Riverside, San Francisco, Merced) are in the middle category with totals ranging from 7 to 9, while three others (Santa Cruz, Berkeley, Santa Barbara) have totals under 6.

There is opportunity to broaden representation across UC campuses by increasing outreach to Senate divisions currently underrepresented in systemwide leadership and coordinating efforts with the University Committee on Committees (UCOC) regarding committee member appointments. There is also room to enhance how the systemwide Senate tracks faculty's Senate service contributions and recognizes those who serve in leadership roles.

² See the complete list of standing systemwide Academic Senate committees and Academic Council special committees, as well as current and past membership rosters:
<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/committees/index.html>

Summary of System-Level Faculty Service

Beyond systemwide Senate standing committees, faculty responded to numerous calls for service in 2025-26. Ad hoc opportunities are listed first, followed by standing and other regular engagements.

- Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaption to Disruptions ([UCAD](#)): Charged by the systemwide Senate chair to develop strategies to maintain the excellence of the University's tripartite mission—teaching and education, research and discovery, and public service—in the face of disruptive federal executive orders, uncertain federal and state partnerships, and evolving shifts in the higher education landscape. Comprising chairs of systemwide Senate committees and Senate divisions, UCAD delivered an interim report to the Academic Council in June 2025. After a systemwide review, UCAD issued a [final report](#) in January 2026 that presented initial recommendations in five key areas: 1) Research Funding Assistance; 2) Academic Personnel Evaluations During Disruptions; 3) Program Resizing and Restructuring; 4) Need for Flexibility in Course Offerings and Modalities; and 5) Future of Doctoral Education.
- Joint Senate-Administration Task Force on UC Adaption to Disruptions ([UCAD Plus](#)): A successor to the Academic Senate's Task Force on UCAD, UCAD Plus was charged by the systemwide provost and systemwide Senate chair to develop short- and long-term strategies for restructuring academic programs and University operations. Building on the Senate UCAD's final report, UCAD Plus prioritized recommendations across five primary areas: 1) Research Activities and Infrastructure; 2) Academic Personnel Evaluations; 3) Program Evaluation and Alignment; 4) Instructional Opportunities; and 5) Future of Graduate Education. The forthcoming UCAD Plus preliminary report will undergo systemwide review in fall 2026.
- Assessment Center Consortium [Task Force](#): Charged by the systemwide provost to: assess existing testing policies and structures across the 10 campuses, identifying best practices as well as areas for improvement; develop a scalable implementation plan that ensures alignment with UC's mission and resources; identify best practices for assessment security, learning modalities, student accommodations, and mastery-based learning; and foster intersegmental collaboration with the California State University and California Community Colleges systems to expand access.
- Joint Senate-Administration [Task Force](#) on Expressive Activities: Following the January 2026 revisions to the Academic Personnel Manual (APM) - [015](#) (Faculty.Code.of.Conduct), APM - [016](#) (University.Policy.on.Faculty.Conduct.and.Discipline), Academic Senate Bylaws [195](#) and [334-337](#), and relevant campus-level disciplinary procedures, the joint task force was charged by the systemwide provost and systemwide Senate chair to develop general guidance on extramural speech and faculty discipline for expressive activities in violation of

relevant University policies. The task force submitted proposed guidelines in July 2026 that will undergo systemwide review in fall 2026.

- **Presidential Task Force on Health Sciences Clinical Faculty Governance:** Charged by the president to evaluate potential approaches to governance that meaningfully support the participation of clinical faculty in decisions that affect their work as clinicians, researchers, educators, mentors, and members of the broader University community. The task force considered governance models utilized by peer institutions, assessed their applicability within the UC system, and developed recommendations for consideration by the president in consultation with the Academic Senate, chancellors, health sciences and academic affairs leadership, and clinical faculty representatives across the University.
- **Task Force on Performance of Undergraduate Degree Programs (PUDP):** Charged by the systemwide provost to review: 1) recommendations of the Presidential Task Force on Instructional Modalities and UC Quality Undergraduate Degree Programs (IMOD); 2) recommendations from the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) on [Characteristics of Undergraduate Educational Quality at the University of California](#), and [Principles and Considerations for Assessment of UC Educational Quality](#); 3) data infrastructure investments and data sharing practices among the UC campuses; and 4) data from fully online undergraduate majors and proposals for fully online pilot programs. A final PUDP report is forthcoming for consideration by the new systemwide provost.
- **UC Global Language Network (GLN) Task Force:** A systemwide task force formed to support the development and implementation of the Global Language Network pilot program. Specifically, the task force was charged by the systemwide provost to advise on: development of a framework for consistent credit and requirement recognition across campuses; vetting of courses to ensure alignment with UC quality standards; recommendations on instructor support and course design for high-quality online language instruction; and guidance on long-term governance and sustainability models.

- **Academic Senate Stewardship Review, Fall 2025:** [Reviewed](#) Cynthia Larive's stewardship over the past six years as chancellor of UC Santa Cruz.
- **Academic Senate Stewardship Review, Spring 2026:** [Reviewed](#) Sam Hawgood's stewardship over the past six and a half years as chancellor of UC San Francisco.
- **Academic Planning Council (APC):** A joint Senate-administration standing advisory committee chaired by the systemwide provost that considers broad academic policy issues concerning the University's long-range academic direction and examines matters of magnitude beyond single-campus resolution. Issues addressed this year include: the future

of international education at UC, expanded opportunities for experiential learning, three-year undergraduate degree attainment, and pending state legislation related to the California Master Plan for Higher Education.

- Faculty Advisory [Committee](#) on Graduate Education and Employment: Advised Systemwide Academic Personnel at UC Office of the President (UCOP) and other offices (e.g., Faculty Affairs and Academic Programs, Systemwide Labor Relations) on policies, procedures, practices, and other matters related to graduate education and employment. Faculty on this committee, along with the faculty representative who served directly on the UC bargaining team and in mediation, helped shape the ratified United Auto Workers (UAW) contract covering Academic Student Employees (ASE) and Graduate Student Researchers (GSR) by advising UC's negotiating team throughout bargaining, with the Academic Senate chair and vice chair consulting them regularly as the University formulated its proposals.
- Global Climate Leadership Council ([GCLC](#)): A systemwide advisory body established in 2014 to guide UC's ambitious sustainability, climate action, and carbon neutrality goals that involves Academic Senate representatives, including the systemwide chair and vice chair, to advise the UC president and chief financial officer on climate policies and implementation of operational climate action goals.
- UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Governing [Council](#): Representing the Academic Senate, the systemwide Senate chair participated on the Council that advises the UC ANR vice president and UC president on matters ranging from UC ANR's budget and funding models, to policies, procedures, strategic plans, and operational objectives.