

Quick Notes for Representative Assembly Members to Share at Department Meetings

January 13, 2026 Representative Assembly Meeting*

Link to meeting agenda and meeting materials:

<https://senate.ucsd.edu/media/745499/january-13-2026-representative-assembly-meeting-materials.pdf>

Link to presentations:

<https://senate.ucsd.edu/media/747330/jan-13-presentations-pdfs-combined.pdf>

San Diego Divisional Senate Chair Plant's Remarks

Chair Plant gave an update on the progress of the following Senate goals for the academic year.

Serve as a conduit for clear and accurate information about the status of federal directives and investigations, the UC response, and local impacts.

- On December 12, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and *ProPublica* jointly published an article called the “[The Shakedown](#)” which focused on how the Trump administration froze hundreds of millions of dollars in research funding at UCLA.
- Most, though not all, of the federal grant funding has been restored, and the UC system has been granted a reprieve from the \$1.2B demand due a U.S. District Court ruling. However, the ruling is subject to appeal.
- The joint Academic Senate-Administration Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions ([UCAD Plus](#)) has been proceeding with a sweeping effort to maintain UC’s position as the nation’s leading research university in light of resource constraints. Five different workgroups have been formed and will focus on: research activities and infrastructure; academic personnel evaluations; academic program planning, evaluation, and alignment; instructional opportunities and course offerings across modalities; and the future of graduate education.

Oversee work of the Senate, welcoming suggestions as to how established ways of functioning can be improved.

- The new [Committee on Crisis Mitigation](#) started meeting in Fall.
- In collaboration with the EVC’s Office, an updated [Online Course Development Agreement](#) was finalized last quarter and is now in effect. The agreement balances faculty-owned intellectual property with the university’s legitimate interest in online courses that involve substantial institutional investment. An accompanying set of guidelines for the agreement is nearing completion and will be made available as a resource for faculty.
- The [Senate Administration Workgroup on the Academic Peer Review Process](#) has been meeting regularly this year and is aiming to submit their report later this quarter.
- Two new Senate Administration Workgroups on graduate education and educational research were recently charged and will begin work this quarter.

*These notes are intended to be a quick recap and supplement to the notes taken by Representative Assembly members at the meeting, in order to aid them in their reporting at Department meetings. The notes do not replace the minutes, which are the official record of Representative Assembly meetings and are approved at the following Assembly meeting.

- The Senate Administration Workgroup on Admissions also completed its [report](#) earlier this academic year. Senate Council recently completed its review of the report, and Senate leadership is now working with both UCSD administrators and BOARS, the systemwide Senate group that oversees UC Admissions, to implement the report's recommendations.

Ensure that faculty have a voice in decisions about the budget, especially concerning matters that would affect our educational mission.

- Mercedes Muñoz, Associate Vice Chancellor, Budget & Financial Analysis presented at the October 21 Representative Assembly meeting.
- An *Academic Senate: Budget Town Hall* with the Chancellor and the Academic Vice Chancellors was held on January 26.
- The Committee on Planning Budget is also very active this year in pushing for access to information and greater transparency, and Senate leadership is committed to working with them to ensure we are able to act on the principles of shared governance. Chair Plant has also been in communication with other UC divisional chairs to discuss how budget information is shared with faculty on their campuses.
- The new Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Lawrence Furnstahl started at the beginning of January. Senate leadership will be meeting with him monthly.

Support faculty members who feel vulnerable due to who they are or what they research and teach.

- Senate leadership is working on organizing a Faculty Rights Workshop to provide information on rights and privileges in the classroom, as well as strategies or best practices for managing classroom situations when dealing with controversial topics.

Work to bridge the divide between general campus and the Health Sciences.

- Earlier this year, Representative Assembly approved the revision to [Senate Bylaw 242](#) to make the Health Sciences Faculty Council (HSFC) Chair a voting member of Senate Council.
- Senate leadership has had several meetings with the current HSFC Chair, Jess Mandel. Chair Plant attended and presented at GI Grand Rounds earlier this year, and Chair Plant and Vice Chair Rona-Tas will be attending the HSFC meeting in February

Host an Academic Senate Seminar Series on AI and Education.

- The Senate held a seminar on December 2 featuring Professor David Danks (HDSI and Philosophy) and Professor Gail Heyman (Psychology) who have respectively co-chaired Senate-Administration Workgroups that produced reports on "[The Impact of Generative AI on Research at UC San Diego](#)" and "[The Impact of Generative AI on Education at UC San Diego](#)".
- The [report](#) of the Senate-Administration Workgroup on the Impact of Generative AI on Research is currently under Senate review.
- Meanwhile, the systemwide Senate issued their [report](#) of the Academic Senate Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence (AI), which Senate Council will also be discussing at its February meeting.

- Chair Plant is working with Associated Students to arrange for an online Senate Seminar that would feature students representing a wide range of majors who will speak frankly with faculty on how they use AI, what they observe among their peers, and how they perceive its benefits and drawbacks.
- The Senate has been working with Tricia Betram Gallant of the Academic Integrity Office and David Song-Ruiter, Faculty Director of the TLC, on the kinds of concrete guidance that faculty and students need in this area.
- Chair Plant's next faculty newsletter included a short [form](#) regarding the kind of guidance people would like from the Academic Senate about GenAI.. All faculty are encouraged to complete it.

Communicate with faculty on the status of UAW negotiations and provide guidance in the event of a strike.

- The UAW contract was extended to the end of January as negotiations continue. Provost Newman has also been sending regular updates. Please see the Chancellor's announcements below for more information on ongoing labor negotiations.

Strengthen knowledge of and participation in shared governance among our faculty.

- Chair Plant and Vice Chair Rona-Tas visited numerous departments in the fall and are happy to schedule meetings with department chairs if they have not yet visited your department.
- Senate leadership held a fall quarter lunch at the Faculty Club in November, hosted a Fall Quarter coffee chat to discuss the Admissions report, and attended what proved to be a lively Faculty Club Happy Hour in December.
- The plan is to host these events again in the Winter (with a different featured topic for the coffee chat). Additional information is forthcoming in Chair Plant's next newsletter.

Pursue new funding streams to support faculty research.

- Senate leadership has met with Advancement to discuss working with them to raise funds for Senate research grants. This conversation is ongoing.

Other Items that have emerged

- Proposed revisions to the Faculty Code of Conduct (APM 015) and University Policy on Faculty Conduct and the Administration of Discipline (APM 016). In the fall, the Senate was asked to comment on proposed revisions to APM 015, Faculty Code of Conduct and APM 016, University Policy on Faculty Conduct and the Administration of Discipline, and proposed Systemwide Guidelines. Senate reviewers highlighted a number of issues and concerns that were transmitted to Provost Newman by the systemwide Senate. In response, Provost Newman submitted revised versions to systemwide Senate Chair Palazoglu. The updated amendments were approved by the systemwide Academic Assembly on January 15 and by the Regents at their January 21 meeting. The general sentiment expressed by the systemwide Senate's Academic Council was that this is a win for shared governance because the new revisions took faculty feedback into account.
- Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship Program: Following President Milliken's announcement that the hiring incentive will remain in place, Senate leadership is working

with President Milliken and Provost Newman on determining next steps. A review committee may be constituted to review the program.

Chancellor Pradeep Khosla's Remarks

Chancellor Khosla was unable to attend the meeting but provided the following remarks to Chair Plant to present on his behalf. Chancellor Khosla will share more details regarding these updates at the upcoming town hall.

Budget

- UC received some positive news regarding the budget, but UC San Diego continues to move forward with a conservative approach on the budget, keeping in mind that there are many unknowns.
- A structural deficit in core funds of \$139M was projected for FY26 at the beginning of this fiscal year. As of Q1, the FY26 forecast improved by \$56M (revised deficit of \$82M) as a result of:
 - Strong non-resident numbers: campus was coming in above target, so the administration removed the possible drop in revenues.
 - The capping of the IDC rate has not yet happened. The University continues to be reimbursed at previously negotiated levels.
- The Campus Budget Office will continue to revise the forecast, using YTD actuals, for the duration of this fiscal year.

State Budget Update

- Governor Newsom released his FY2026-27 budget to the legislature on January 12.
- The state tax revenues have been stronger than expected, which contributed to higher than expected funding in the budget request.
- While the news is encouraging, the legislature will pass the final budget in June.

Federal Budget

- The Chancellor and UC San Diego's budget team are closely monitoring the following:
 - Grant funding and F&A caps
 - Financial aid programs and professional education loan caps
 - Medicare/Medicaid and a multitude of health care policies
 - Tariffs
 - H-1B visas

Labor Updates

- In November, the university reached agreements with both UPTE and CNA.
- UC-AFT (IX) Teachers and counselors at The Preuss School completed a two-day strike December 16–17. Negotiations with this group have reached an impasse, and we are now moving through the PERB impasse process.
- UC is actively bargaining with UAW on new systemwide staff contracts for Research and Public Service Professionals (RPSP) and Student Services and Advising Professionals (SSAP). UC and UAW are also actively bargaining a successor agreement for the

Academic Student Employees and Graduate Student Researchers (BX/BR). Bargaining continues through January. On January 12, UAW announced a strike authorization vote will take place February 5-13. Plan for academics and instructional continuity will need to be made if negotiations stall after January.

Executive Vice Chancellor Elizabeth Simmons' Remarks

- The annual [Future of Academic Affairs Forum](#) was held on Thursday, January 29.
- It served as an opportunity to provide input on current projects and initiatives that represent an investment in the collective future of Academic Affairs, including preparation for UC San Diego's upcoming reaccreditation process.
- See page 1 of the presentation slides.

Forum topics included:

- Reducing inequities in the learning environment by making course materials more affordable for students
- Strategies to support students experiencing academic difficulties
- Creation of a testing center network across the UC, CSU, and CCCs based on the Triton Testing Center
- Faculty career advancement and leadership development

Reports of Standing Committees

- (a) Educational Policy Committee, Stanley Lo, Chair
 - Approved: Proposal to amend San Diego Divisional Regulation 502, Grade Appeals
 - See page 62 of the meeting materials and page 4 of the presentation slides.
- (b) Educational Policy Committee, Stanley Lo, Chair
 - Approved: Proposal to amend San Diego Divisional Regulation 500, Grading Policy
 - See page 64 of the meeting materials and page 7 of the presentation slides.
- (c) Educational Policy Committee, Stanley Lo, Chair
 - Approved: Proposal to amend San Diego Divisional Senate Manual Appendix 2, UC San Diego Academic Integrity Policy
 - See page 65 of the meeting materials and page 10 of the presentation slides.
- (d) Educational Policy Committee, Stanley Lo, Chair
 - Approved: Proposal to amend San Diego Divisional Regulation 600, Campuswide Graduation Requirements
 - See page 71 of the meeting materials and page 13 of the presentation slides.
- (e) Graduate Council, Sarah Gille, Chair; and Eric Yorkston, Associate Teaching Professor, Rady School of Management

- Approved: Proposal to amend Senate Regulation 702, Requirements for the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Degree
 - See page 72 of the meeting materials and page 16 of the presentation slides.
- (f) Committee on Campus Climate Change, Varykina Thackray, Chair
 - Approved: Proposal to amend San Diego Divisional Bylaw 187, Committee on Campus Climate Change
 - See page 74 of the meeting materials.
- (g) Committee on Academic Information Technology, Barry Grant, Committee Member
 - Approved, with amended language: Proposal to amend San Diego Divisional Bylaw 192, Academic Information Technology
 - See page 78 of the meeting materials.
- (h) Committee on Campus and Community Environment, Simeon Nichter, Chair
 - Approved: Proposal to amend San Diego Divisional Bylaw 190, Campus and Community Environment
 - See page 82 of the meeting materials and page 17 of the presentation slides.