

Quick Notes for Representative Assembly Members to Share at Department Meetings March 3, 2026 Representative Assembly Meeting*

Link to meeting agenda and meeting materials:

<https://senate.ucsd.edu/media/749134/march-3-2026-representative-assembly-meeting-materials-draft.pdf>

Link to presentations:

<https://senate.ucsd.edu/media/751102/march-3-2026-presentations.pdf>

San Diego Divisional Senate Chair Plant's Remarks

Marine Sciences Research Grant Committee Name Change

- The name of the Marine Sciences Research Grant Committee (Senate Bylaw 238) will be updated to a new committee name, the Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences Research Grant Committee. This is a conforming update following the recent approval of a name change from the Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences.

Systemwide Updates

- The Trump Administration dropped its appeal of the court order blocking the \$1.2 billion civil-rights settlement with UCLA. However, the DOJ has now filed a new lawsuit against UCLA on the same grounds and is accelerating document requests across the UC system.
- The systemwide Senate is planning a comprehensive review of undergraduate admissions (excluding professional schools), focusing on A-G requirements, K-12 engagement, and the role of standardized testing, largely in response to the divisional Senate-Administration Workgroup on Admissions Report.
- CFO Nathan Bostrom recently highlighted two major fiscal issues:
 - An uptick in unusually large jury awards for medical malpractice and wrongful termination lawsuits, which is driving higher insurance premiums and deductibles.
 - A proposed shift by UCOP to finance the Mortgage Origination Program through capital-market funding instead of the short-term investment program (STIP). This proposal will require Regental approval.
- President Milliken and Provost Newman are addressing critics' concerns as to whether a university education is still a good return on investment by expanding the extension system and facilitating programs that pair bachelor's degrees with additional credentials (e.g., the pilot Degree Plus program) to improve graduates' job prospects.

Campus Updates

- Senate Council is discussing potential structures to support faculty governance on AI matters. There are two options being considered: 1. Add to the existing Committee on Academic Information Technology (CAIT), which would require an expanded committee

*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.

charge and additional administrative consultants; 2. Establish a new standing Senate-Administration Committee, as some other UC campuses have done.

- The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) continues to collaborate with Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration Lawrence Furnstahl and Associate Vice Chancellor for Campus Budget Operations Mercedes Muñoz to improve transparency and communication around budget matters. Progress is ongoing and has been positive so far.
- The [report](#) from the Senate-Administration Workgroup on the Academic Peer Review Process is now complete. A well-attended Coffee Chat on February 24 featured workgroup co-chair Phil Roeder and current CAP chair Christina Schneider, who explained the findings and answered questions. The report is posted on the Senate's website. All faculty are invited to review it and submit comments by May 1, 2026.
- Senate Chair Plant and Vice Chair Rona-Tas will be at the [Faculty Club Happy Hour](#) on Thursday, March 19 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. All Senate faculty are welcome to stop by. No sign up required.

Chancellor Pradeep Khosla's Remarks

- Recent budget updates regarding federal and state allocations have been encouraging. A conservative budgeting approach will be maintained due to remaining uncertainties.
- The FY26 core funds projection originally showed a \$139M structural deficit but has been revised based on actual enrollment, which saw slight growth, and a YTD projection of actual indirect cost recovery, which saw a smaller decline than predicted.
- The revised outlook now shows an almost balanced budget, which is a much needed boost as the FY27 planning process starts.
- While FY26 federal bill language prohibits F&A rate caps and level set agency funding, campus contract and grant spending has slowed. The projected decline from 45% to 10% in the FY26 forecast has been adjusted.
- Looking ahead to FY27, there is a continued awareness that all revenue streams are still vulnerable. Although there has been positive news related to new federal award obligations and language prohibiting caps, reports indicate a strong desire to overhaul the current F&A model, with work potentially beginning in FY26.
- Governor Newsom's FY27 budget proposal, released in mid-January, includes an optimistic 7% base increase for UC, but analysis provided by the Legislative Analyst's Office is recommending the state take several actions to balance its budgets, including reducing or eliminating the base increase for UC. The state budget process is fluid, with many proposals shifting between the Governor's January submission and the final version in late June. The UC will plan for multiple outcomes.
- Preliminary FY27 forecast anticipates a cumulative operating deficit of \$30M, driven mainly by higher compensation costs. If the 7% state base increase is reduced or removed, the deficit could expand to \$70 M, mirroring the shortfall experienced in FY26. Projections will continue to be updated as new information on the state budget becomes available.

Executive Vice Chancellor Elizabeth Simmons' Remarks

- The Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs is hosting Academic Continuity Information Sessions. Details about the sessions are provided by email to Senate faculty.

Emeriti Association

Richard Madsen, President, UCSD Emeriti Association

- The UCSD Emeriti Association provides its members several opportunities to maintain contact with their colleagues and assists members to continue their contributions to society.
- The [Dickson Award](#) recognizes retired UC community members who remain highly productive, and it provides an annual cash award to exemplary faculty members.
- There are many ways for members to get involved, including monthly lecture events and a book club.
- The Chancellor's Scholars Program is a two-year mentorship and leadership development program designed for recipients of the Chancellor's Scholarship. Faculty can serve as mentors in this program through the [UCSD Emeriti Mentoring Program](#).
- Faculty are encouraged to join the [Emeriti Association](#) upon retirement. Additional benefits include access to UCSD Libraries and discounts to a variety of campus programs.

Retirement Association

Kim Signoret-Paar, President, UCSD Retirement Association

- Since 1984, the UCSD Retirement Association has provided retirees with a way to stay connected to the university. Both faculty and staff are eligible for membership.
- UC San Diego boasts the largest and most active retirement association among all UC campuses, hosting hundreds of events each year. Members enjoy a wide variety of social, educational, and volunteer opportunities where they can share their time, knowledge, and skills.
- The Association offers a variety of [interest groups](#), including book clubs, photography circles, and lunchtime meet ups, allowing members to explore new topics and connect with fellow retirees.
- Faculty are encouraged to join the [Retirement Association](#) upon retirement. Additional benefits include UC San Diego email forwarding, access to UCSD Libraries and discounts to a variety of campus programs and travel programs.
- See page 1 of the presentation slides.

IT Updates

Kevin Chou, Interim Chief Information Officer

Triton Student System

- The Triton Student System ([TSS](#)) is preparing for a Summer 2026 launch and will unfold incrementally, with the initial cohort of students using it for Fall 2026 enrollment.
- Since Fall 2025, several TSS demonstrations have already been conducted, and additional sessions have been scheduled to collect feedback from a broad range of users.

New Federal Digital Accessibility Requirements

- The Department of Justice (DOJ) has issued new rules for Title II of the [Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#). As a state-funded institution, UC San Diego is required to comply with these federal regulations by April 24, 2026.
- These standards apply to all digital content managed by UC San Diego, including media and communication content; web and digital platforms; digital documents (e.g., PDFs, MS Word, Google Docs, presentations); and campus maps and navigational tools.
- For additional information on UC San Diego's approach to address compliance under the new rules, please see the presentation posted on the Senate's website.

Secure Connect and new UC Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) software selection

- [Secure Connect](#) is an initiative that builds on UC San Diego's existing cybersecurity measures and addresses cybersecurity expectations issued to all UC campuses in February 2024 by then-President Drake.
- A systemwide audit is currently underway to ensure compliance with the mandate.
- Network access control to enforce EDR standards is currently in progress. Enforcement began on the UCSD-Protected wireless network in July 2025 and on the Campus Virtual Private Network (VPN) in February 2026. Wired connections are expected to be included in March 2026.
- The request for proposal stage to choose new UC Tactical Defensive Infrastructure (TDI) partner(s) for the UC has concluded. Final awards were chosen in January 2026, and UCOP is still working on contracting. More information will be provided by UCOP after the contracts are finalized.
- See this [link](#) for the presentation (valid SSO login required).

Overview of the Undergraduate Colleges

Leslie Carver, Provost, Thurgood Marshall College

- The Undergraduate Colleges at UC San Diego consist of eight residential and academic communities. Every student and general campus faculty member are assigned to a college independent of major or school.
- Each College provides a full suite of services, including residential support, academic and general education advising, resources for students of concern such as basic needs assistance, mental health services, through a College Dean of Student Affairs and dedicated staff.

- Each Provost Office oversees the College's operations, budget, and general education requirements, while College Deans collaborate with the Academic Senate on undergraduate policies.
- Colleges also host mission-aligned academic programs (first year and upper division writing, community engagement, project-based and experiential courses), community building events, and student councils.
- There are opportunities for faculty involvement via executive committees, connecting with Deans about student concerns, attending College events and commencement, and teaching opportunities.
- See page 3 of the presentation slides.

Reports of Standing Committees

- (a) Graduate Council, Sarah Gille, Chair; Craig McIntosh, Professor, School of Global Policy and Strategy; and Tom Vogl, Associate Professor, Department of Economics
- Approved: Proposal to establish a Bachelor of Science in Economics-Public Policy/Master of Public Policy (BS-MPP) contiguous degree program
 - See page 47 of the meeting materials and page 12 of the presentation slides.
- (b) Graduate Council, Sarah Gille, Chair
- Approved: Proposal to amend San Diego Divisional Senate Regulation 715, Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree at San Diego
 - See page 49 of the meeting materials and page 15 of the presentation slides.