

## Quick Notes for Representative Assembly Members to Share at Department Meetings April 7, 2026 Representative Assembly Meeting\*

Link to meeting agenda and meeting materials: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/media/751657/april-7-2026-representative-assembly-meeting-materials.pdf>

Link to presentations: <https://senate.ucsd.edu/media/751836/april-7-2026-presentation-bundle.pdf>

### **San Diego Divisional Senate Chair Plant's Remarks**

#### Systemwide Updates

- The University of California is having to contend with numerous federal investigations throughout the system. Recent news articles stated that the DOJ is looking into the admissions practices at UC San Diego's School of Medicine (along with Stanford and Ohio State). In fact, there is no indication that the DOJ has identified anything here at UC San Diego that they are particularly concerned about. Dozens of medical schools, including some other UC campuses, have received similar letters.
- UC CFO Nathan Bostrom and EVP and Chief Operations Officer Rachel Nava spoke to Academic Council last month on the long-term budget situation. Labor costs are rising at 7-8% annually, but no revenue stream matches that rate of growth. (Tuition increases are capped at 5%.) UC has also had 3 straight years of double-digit increases on the employer side for health care. Although still unclear, it is possible that after the state's May budget revision, UC will end up with the 7% increase proposed in the Governor's budget. Tax returns have come in very strong, and the state is now at \$49 billion more than a year ago. Locally, this would mean entering FY27 with a \$30 million gap between costs and expenditures. Under these circumstances, the Chancellor has stated that academic departments and programs will face no further cuts next year.
- UCOP is working on implementation guidelines following the conclusion of collective bargaining with the UAW for ASEs and GSRs. UAW succeeded in getting a unified salary scale, but not 12-month appointments. While this contract is in effect through 2029, annual increases will range from 3% to 6% for those at the bottom of the scale. The [March 17, 2026 communication](#) from Provost Newman provides additional details.
- There is concern at the systemwide Academic Senate over a legal settlement that the UC Regents recently signed with the Brandeis Center. It resolved a lawsuit filed in November 2023 alleging that UC Berkeley had violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act by systematically failing to address antisemitism on campus. In response to the settlement, Berkeley's DIVCO (their version of Senate Council) has [issued a statement](#) arguing that certain provisions impinge on the Academic Senate's delegated authority over courses and curriculum and seriously weakens the Academic Senate's ability "to protect academic freedom and to ensure faculty due process."

\*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.

## Campus Updates

- Chancellor Khosla and the Academic Senate are co-sponsoring a day-long AI Symposium on May 29 featuring panel discussions and AI use cases focused on ethical, evidence-based practices for AI integration in teaching. The event will be in person but also live-streamed, since spaces will be limited. More information will be forthcoming.
- The report from the Senate-Administration Workgroup on the Academic Peer Review Process is posted on the [Senate website](#) for review and Senate faculty may submit comments until May 1.

## **Triton Health and Wellness Building Update**

Ed Junkins, Executive Director, Student Health and Well-Being

Dulce Amor L. Dorado, Director of Strategic Planning, Innovation, and Research, Student Health and Well-Being

The Triton Health and Wellness Building will centralize student health services, including psychiatry, optometry, imaging, physical therapy, and primary care, on campus, with a July 14, 2026 “go-live” and an open house slated for September/October 2026. Construction is near completion. State-of-the-art equipment (new analyzers, comprehensive eye-exam tools, and a rehab space) will support expanded testing and integrated care through collaborations with UC San Diego Health and the College Mental Health Program, improving access and reducing out-of-pocket costs. There will be access to UC San Diego Health primary care and occupational medicine at this on-site location. Further details can be obtained from Dr. Edward P. Junkins Jr. ([ejunkins@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:ejunkins@health.ucsd.edu)) or Dulce Amor L. Dorado ([ddorado@health.ucsd.edu](mailto:ddorado@health.ucsd.edu)).

## **Special Orders**

### Consent Calendar

#### Senate Election – Nominations for Committee on Committees

This year’s voting period for the election will be April 27 through May 13.

Senate Council nominated the following candidates. The candidates elected will serve on the Committee on Committees, for three-year terms, effective September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2029. The election slate was approved.

- Engineering department:
  - Gert Cauwenberghs, Professor, Bioengineering
- Health Sciences department (excluding the Department of Medicine and the School of Public Health):
  - Colin Depp, Professor, Psychiatry
  - Tracy Handel, Professor, Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography:
  - Joel Norris, Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
  -

- Social Sciences department:
  - Eric Baković, Professor, Linguistics
  - Mica Pollock, Professor, Education Studies

Senate Council nominated the following candidates to serve on the Committee on Committees for a two-year term for a member from a Social Sciences department, effective September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2028, due to a vacancy. The election slate was approved.

- Scott Desposato, Professor, Political Science
- Brian Goldfarb, Associate Professor, Communication

The following candidates were nominated by petition to serve on the Committee on Committees, for three-year terms, effective September 1, 2026, through August 31, 2029, and were announced at the meeting.

- Engineering department:
  - Jorge Cortés, Professor, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Scripps Institution of Oceanography:
  - Paola Cessi, Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

The following candidates were nominated by the Committee on Committees as Divisional Representatives to the systemwide Academic Senate's Assembly and were announced at the meeting.

- Timothy Morris, Professor of Clinical Medicine, Medicine
- Ingrid Tomac, Associate Professor, Structural Engineering
- Shahrokh Yadegari, Professor, Music

The following candidate was nominated by petition for Divisional Representative and was announced at the meeting.

- Eric Halgren, Professor, Radiology and Neurosciences

It was noted at the meeting that the Committee on Committees was still working on their slate for Vice Chair (Chair Designate) for a two-year term, effective September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2028 and the candidates running would be shared following the meeting. The incumbent serves as Vice Chair the first year and as Chair the second year. The slate was subsequently finalized with the following candidates nominated by the Committee on Committees.

- Steven P. Briggs, Professor, Cell and Developmental Biology
- Anthony Burr, Professor, Music

The following candidate was nominated by petition for Vice Chair (Chair Designate).

- Terry Gaasterland, Professor, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

### 2025-26 Distinguished Teaching Awards Nominations

Approved: Committee on Senate Awards nominations for Distinguished Teaching Awards.

Distinguished Teaching Award, Senate Members

- Mira Balberg, History
- Oscar Vazquez Mena, Chemical and Nanoengineering
- Dontarie Stallings, Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Drew Walker, Cognitive Science

Barbara and Paul Saltman Distinguished Teaching Award, Non-Senate Members

- Peggy Lott, Linguistics
- Tricia Santos Cavaiola, Medicine
- Edward Smitaman, Radiology

Barbara and Paul Saltman Excellent Teaching Award, Graduate Students

- Jingze (Johnny) Li, Mathematics
- Kea Saper, Sociology
- Hong Tsun (Thomas) Wong, Physics

**Reports of Standing Committees**

- (a) Senate Council, Akos Rona-Tas, Vice Chair; and Rajesh Gupta, Dean, School of Computing, Information and Data Sciences
  - Approved: Proposal to change the name of the School of Computing, Information and Data Sciences
  - See page 43 of the meeting materials and page 10 of the presentation slides.
- (b) Educational Policy Committee, Stanley Lo, Chair
  - Referred back to EPC: Proposal to amend San Diego Divisional Senate Manual Appendix 2, UC San Diego Academic Integrity Policy
  - See page 59 of the meeting materials and page 13 of the presentation slides.
- (c) Graduate Council, Sarah Gille, Chair; and Brian Zid, Associate Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biophysics
  - Approved: Proposal to transfer Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics Graduate Programs from the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry to the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biophysics
  - See page 67 of the meeting materials and page 17 of the presentation slides.
- (d) Graduate Council, Sarah Gille, Chair; and James Cooke, Associate Teaching Professor in the Department of Neurobiology
  - Approved: Proposal to establish MS in Biology with a Specialization in Pathways to Health Professions
  - See page 69 of the meeting materials and page 20 of the presentation slides.