

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION**

MEETING

The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate met on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 1:02 p.m. via Zoom videoconference. Chair Kenneth Barish presided. At the start of the meeting attendance was recorded at 48 members of the Riverside Division of the Academic Senate. Chair Barish outlined Zoom protocol to ensure appropriate attendee participation during the meeting.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 2, 2025, were approved as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

There were no announcements by the President as he was unable to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHANCELLOR AT RIVERSIDE

Chancellor Hu began his address to the Division by thanking those who participated in and attended the inauguration earlier this month. He gave a special thank you to Chair Barish for his key role in the event. Chancellor Hu then outlined his primary campus priorities: deepening the commitment to students, their success, and social mobility; accelerating mission-driven research, innovation through supporting faculty scholarships and research; expanding UCR health; and strengthening partnerships with industry alumni, foundations, and communities across California and beyond. Integrally for Chancellor Hu, “to advance institutional excellence we have to work together.”

Chancellor Hu announced that there has been a series of meetings taking place to review budgets across academic and administrative units within UC Riverside. By mid-March, there will total 32 completed meetings, having met with every academic and administrative unit across campus. The goal is to ensure the financial plan is aligned with strategic priorities. Chancellor Hu thanked David Olgesby, Ken Barish, and Jonathan Eacott for their consistent attendance in these sessions. Additionally, Chancellor Hu affirmed his commitment to advocating for the university through revenue augmentation and generation from the State, the UC System, donors, and research and industry partnerships. In closing, Chancellor Hu further emphasized the top priorities of his tenure: Ensuring and maintaining appropriate resources to succeed, academic support, basic needs assistance, and mentorship pathways for opportunities for students at UC Riverside.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE VICE CHANCELLORS

There were no announcements by PEVC Watkins at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE DEANS OR OTHER EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Chair Barish called upon the Secretary Parliamentarian, Feng Xu, to provide the report on election results. Secretary Parliamentarian Xu informed the Division that the results of the 2025-2026 recent elections for the Division, Colleges and Schools could be found on page 7 of the meeting agenda.

There were no nominations received from the floor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Chair Barish opened his remarks by acknowledging the faculty for their engagement and thanking committee members, chairs, and Senate analysts for their dedicated work. He highlighted a recent joint communication from the Chancellor and Provost regarding instructional continuity during immigration enforcement, noting the significant impact of ICE activity on both the campus and the broader community.

Chair Barish provided an update on the newly formed Senate-Administrative AI Council. In coordination with PEVC Watkins, a formal announcement regarding the council's specific charge will be released soon. The council will serve as a permanent body to maintain a central repository for AI policies and tools. Key objectives include developing adaptable guidelines for syllabi and student conduct, assessing pedagogical impacts, and ensuring AI usage aligns with equity and accessibility standards. Immediate tasks involve synthesizing existing reports, reviewing the UC Academic Senate Workgroup on AI reports, and conducting a needs assessment to guide tool selection and academic integrity frameworks.

Finally, Chair Barish reported on the revisions to APM 015-016 (Faculty Discipline). He noted that the final version approved by the Regents largely incorporated the Senate's substantial feedback. Locally, the UCR Task Force on UCAD Adaptations is currently analyzing recommendations from the final UCAD report within the UCR context, particularly concerning graduate education. The task force plans to launch faculty surveys soon to gather input and provide rapid recommendations on specific issues.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The Consent calendar was unanimously approved.

The annual reports of standing committees, annual reports of the faculties, degree reports and regular reports of standing committees and faculties were received and placed on file.

REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ASSEMBLY

Riverside Assembly Junior Representative Marcus Kaul noted that the reports from the Special Assembly meeting on November 12, 2025, and the January 15, 2026 Assembly meeting can be found on pages 35 and 36 of the full agenda.

Professor Kaul provided a brief summary of the November and January Assembly meetings. The full report can be found on the pages mentioned above.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

There were no reports of Special Committees.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND FACULTIES

Professor Harry Tom, Chair of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences Executive Committee, introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed transfer of the CNAS Microbiology Undergraduate Program to the CNAS Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology, which can be found on page 40 of the full agenda. The motion carried.

Professor Harry Tom, Chair of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences Executive Committee, introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed Bachelor of Science Degree in Genetics and Molecular Biotechnology (GNBT), which can be found on page 74 of the full agenda. The motion carried.

Professor Annie Ditta, Chair of the Committee on Educational Policy, introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed changes to the Goals of Undergraduate Education in the Academic Catalog (pg. 67), which can be found on page 179 of the full agenda. The motion carried.

Professor Ivy Zhang, Chair of the Committee on University Extension, introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed changes to the Charge of the Committee on University Extension Bylaw 8.25, which can be found on page 197 of the full agenda. The motion carried.

Mariam Lam, Ex Officio member of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed changes to the Charge of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Bylaw 8.6.1, which can be found on page 199 of the full agenda. The motion carried.

Professor Scott Pegan, Member of the School of Medicine Executive Committee, introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed changes to School of Medicine Bylaw ME 5.6 (Graduate Advisory Committee-GAC), which can be found on page 200 of the full agenda. The motion carried.

PETITIONS OF STUDENTS

There were no student petitions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE

There were no issues related to University and Faculty Welfare for this Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:44 p.m.

ATTEST:

Feng Xu, Secretary-Parliamentarian
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

Aneesah Kelley-Henry
Recording Secretary