

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

MEETING

The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate met on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at 1:02 p.m. in Genomics Building, Room 1102A. Chair Kenneth Barish presided. The meeting was attended by 63 members of the Riverside Division of the Academic Senate.

MINUTES

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 24, 2026, were approved as presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHANCELLOR AT RIVERSIDE

Chancellor Hu addressed the Division.

Chancellor Hu began by thanking and acknowledging Academic Senate leadership. He praised the exceptional accomplishments, research caliber, and steadfast commitment to the University's mission demonstrated by the Chancellor's Research Fellows. Following his opening remarks, Chancellor Hu presented the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Creative Achievement to Professor Karine Le Roch, Department of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology and Professor Seema Tiwari-Woodruff, Department of Biomedical Sciences. The Chancellor formally recognized their outstanding achievements, congratulated them on their impactful work, and presented them with their respective awards.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE VICE CHANCELLORS

PEVC Watkins addressed the Division.

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor (PEVC) Watkins provided the third annual update on UCR's Strategic Plan 2030. She noted that the campus is currently halfway through the timeline of the strategic plan and encouraged all members to visit the UCR Strategic Plan website (<https://strategicplan.ucr.edu/>) to view progress tracking across all initiatives and updates on individual unit plans.

PEVC Watkins shared a PowerPoint presentation detailing the progress made on specific campus objectives. She highlighted that several goals have already been successfully met, while the remaining initiatives continue to move in a positive direction.

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 2026-2027 recent elections for the Division, Colleges and Schools can be found on page 10 of the meeting agenda.

There were several positions that had no more nominees than vacancies and there were no nominations received from the floor. The Division authorized the Secretary-Parliamentarian to cast a single ballot for all open positions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

Chair Barish addressed the Division.

Chair Barish opened his remarks by thanking and acknowledging Academic Senate leaders, faculty, and staff for their continued engagement and tireless work. He then provided brief updates on key items from the previous meeting:

- **Senate-Administrative AI Council:** The newly formed council is currently active. Its scope spans a wide variety of objectives, with additional tasks and milestones continuing to be identified as the committee's work evolve.
- **UCR UCAD Committee:** The local UCR *UC Adaptation to Disruption* (UCAD) committee is also operational. Chair Barish clarified that while it shares a name with the Systemwide UCAD committee, UCR's version serves a distinct purpose, functioning as a subcommittee of the Executive Council to provide rapid, timely feedback on urgent or complex issues.

Chair Barish announced that the UCR UCAD committee, in coordination with the Committee on Research, will soon launch a campus-wide survey regarding the impacts on research funding. Following the collection and analysis of the survey responses, a Research Town Hall meeting will be scheduled. Lastly, Chair Barish shared updates on upcoming transitions within UC Systemwide Senate Leadership. Susannah Scott (UC Santa Barbara) will transition into the role of Systemwide Chair, and Professor Amani Nuru-Jeter (UC Berkeley) will step in as the incoming Vice Chair.

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 Assembly meeting on February 12, 2026, and the Assembly meeting on April 9, 2026, can be found on page 201 of the full agenda.

Professor Kaul provided a summary of the February and April Assembly meetings. The full reports 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 Richard Cardullo, Chair of the Committee on Distinguished Campus Service, introduced and moved for the adoption of the nomination of Professor Reza Abbaschian,

Department of Mechanical Engineering and Professor Kimberly Hammond, Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology as the recipients of the Distinguished Campus Service Award for 2025-26. The contributions of Professor Abbaschian and Professor Hammond are summarized in the report of the Committee, which can be found on pages 205 and 206 of the full agenda. The motion carried.

Professor Richard Hooley, Chair of the Committee on Distinguished Teaching, introduced and moved for the adoption of the nomination of Assistant Professor Chikako Takeshita, Department of Society, Environment, and Health Equity and Assistant Professor Rachel Wu, Department of Psychology, as the recipients of the Distinguished Teaching Award for 2025-26. The contributions of Professor Takeshita and Professor Wu are summarized in the report of the Committee, which can be found on page 207 through page 209 of the full agenda. The motion carried.

Professor Marcus Kaul, member of the Graduate Council, introduced and moved for the adoption of the nomination of Professor Bahram Mobasher, Department of Physics and Astronomy and Professor Jason Weems, Department of History of Art, as the recipients of the Dissertation Advisor/Mentoring Award for 2025-26. The contributions of Professor Mobasher and Professor Weems are summarized in the report of the Committee, which can be found on pages 211 and 212 of the full agenda. The motion carried.

Professor Julia Bailey-Serres, Chair of the Committee on Faculty Research Lecturer, introduced and moved for the adoption of the nomination of Distinguished Professor Bruce Link, Department of Public Policy and Sociology as the recipient of the Faculty Research Lecturer Award for 2026-27. The contributions of Distinguished Professor Link are summarized in the report of the Committee, which can be found on page 213 of the full agenda. The motion carried.

Professor Francesca Hopkins, Chair of the Committee on Committees, introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed changes to the Committee on Committees Bylaw 8.8-8.87: Lived Name Policy, Service Permissions, & Name Correction which can be found on page 215 of the full agenda. The motion was carried.

On behalf of the Committee on Preparatory Education, Chair Barish introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed changes to the Charge of the Committee on Preparatory Education (Bylaw 8.24.2.1) which can be found on page 229 of the full agenda. The motion was carried.

Professor Harry Tom, Chair of the CNAS Executive Committee, introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed Combined Data Science B.S. + Statistics M.S. Program which can be found on page 235 of the full agenda. The motion was carried.

Professor Kate Sweeny, member of the Department of Psychology, introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed Department name change: from the Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, which can be found on page 296 of the full agenda. The motion was carried.

Professor Adam Godzik, Chair of the School of Medicine Executive Committee, introduced and moved for the adoption of the proposed changes to the School of Medicine Bylaw 5.2 (Dean Title) which can be found on page 310 of the full agenda. The motion was 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 2:25 p.m.

ATTEST:

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

Aneesah Kelley-Henry
Recording Secretary