

Final Charge - Senate-Administrative AI Council

1/5/26 [Updated 1/14/26]

Ken Barish, Academic Senate Chair

Background

Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly Generative AI, has rapidly transformed the landscape of higher education. While these technologies offer unprecedented opportunities, they also present significant challenges regarding academic integrity, pedagogical applications, and ethical usage.

The UCR Senate-Administration Artificial Intelligence Council is the central body for guiding the campus' approach to AI integration with the academic enterprise. Bringing together diverse perspectives from academic and administrative units and technical experts, the Council develops frameworks for responsible AI adoption, assesses risks and opportunities, recommends infrastructure investments, and ensures that our use of AI aligns with the university's commitment to academic excellence and ethical innovation. The Council will serve as a collaborative body to guide policy, share knowledge, and promote the responsible development and use of AI technologies. To ensure effectiveness in a rapidly moving field, this body is designed to be agile, expert-driven, and centered on the academic enterprise.

Charge

The Council is charged with providing real-time guidance and strategic oversight on AI integration with the academic enterprise. While partnership with administration is essential for operations, the Council shall be Senate-led in terms of content, ensuring that the needs and interests of faculty—regarding teaching, learning, and research—drive the selection, implementation, and ethical usage of AI tools.

The Council serves as an ongoing body to address:

1. **Communication:** Maintaining a central, accessible location for up-to-date AI information (i.e., policies, tools, etc.).
2. **Teaching and Learning:** Developing policies for syllabi, student conduct; identifying new and existing pedagogical impacts.
3. **Research:** Aligning tool availability with research needs (coordinating with **RAISE** where applicable).
4. **Guidance & Policy:** Developing flexible guidance, rules, and regulations that can adapt to fast-paced technological changes.
5. **Equity & Accessibility:** Identify how AI use may impact equity and accessibility across academic affairs.

The Council shall

1. **Synthesize and Evaluate Reports, Guidance, and Resources:**
 - o Review, compile, synthesize, and centrally maintain AI-related guidance and faculty resources at UCR that currently exist.

- Assess, review, and comment on the report of the [UC Academic Senate Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence](#).
- 2. **Conduct a Needs Assessment & Advise on Tool Selection:**
 - Conduct an initial and ongoing assessment of faculty needs to guide procurement.
 - Ensure faculty voices are central to decision-making about AI tool procurement for academic use.
- 3. **Provide a Real-Time Guidance Framework:**
 - Produce "living" guidelines for student AI usage, AI usage in instruction, and syllabus language rather than static policy documents.
 - Address student conduct and academic integrity in coordination with Student Affairs.

The Council will provide periodic updates and an annual report to the Academic Senate Chair and Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor. The annual report will be included among reports for the Academic Senate Fall Division meeting.

Membership

To remain agile, the Council shall consist of a **Core Group** of 11 members, including a chair, two ex-officio Senate members, and five ex-officio Administration Members. This group may pull in additional experts from the Administration or Senate as needed for specific tasks. Members will serve on an ongoing basis for a term of three years subject to annual reappointment.

Members:

1. The first cohort shall be effective 2/1/2026.
2. One ex-officio member will be an active member of the **Academy of Distinguished Teaching** to ensure pedagogical excellence is represented. To be named by the Chair of ADT for submission to CoC.
3. One ex-officio member will be an active member of Senate Committee on Information Technology. To be designated by the Senate IT Committee for submission to CoC.
4. Additional four Senate faculty appointed by CoC are to be faculty with expertise in AI ethics, AI usage in research, AI usage in classroom instruction, and computer science. Senate Members appointed by CoC will serve on an ongoing basis for a term of three years, subject to annual reappointment. A member may serve multiple consecutive terms at the discretion of CoC.
5. Administration Members are selected by the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor:
 - Associate Provost (or designee).
 - ITS Representative (CIO or Deputy CIO)
 - XCITE Representative (Teaching & Learning Expert).
 - Library AI Expert / AI Librarian.
 - Associate Dean of the Graduate Division

Consultative & Ad Hoc Participation:

- **Students:** While not members of the Core Group, and to maintain agility, Undergraduate (ASUCR) and Graduate (GSA) representatives shall be engaged at specific, high-impact intervals to provide feedback on student-facing policies.
- **Subject Matter Experts:** Legal Counsel, Privacy Officer, Registrar, and others may be consulted as needed.