

The Regents of the University of California

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

May 6, 2026

The Academic and Student Affairs Committee met on the above date at the UCLA Luskin Conference Center, Los Angeles campus.

Members present: Regents Anguiano, Brooks, Hernandez, Park, Sarris, and Wang; Ex officio members Milliken and Reilly; Advisory members Melton, Palazoglu, Scott, and Tokita; Chancellors Frenk, Hu, and Larive; Staff Advisor Frías

In attendance: Regent-designate Craven, Staff Advisor Hanson, Secretary and Chief of Staff Lyall, General Counsel Robinson, Provost Newman, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava, Senior Vice President Turner, Chancellors Hawgood, May, and Muñoz, and Recording Secretary Li

The meeting convened at 2:55 p.m. with Committee Vice Chair Sarris presiding.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of March 18, 2026 were approved, Regents Anguiano, Brooks, Hernandez, Milliken, Park, Reilly, Sarris, and Wang voting “aye.”¹

2. UC CENTER SACRAMENTO AND UC WASHINGTON CENTER: CULTIVATING FUTURE LEADERS FOR THE STATE AND NATION

[Background material was provided to Regents in advance of the meeting, and a copy is on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Committee Vice Chair Sarris stated that the programs being presented brought students to the state and nation’s capitals, offered experiential learning, trained students to be future leaders, and translated UC research into policy recommendations.

Provost Newman began her remarks by expressing gratitude to Chair Reilly, Regent Cohen, and other Regents for providing input and advocating for investment in UC Center Sacramento (UCCS) and UC Washington Center (UCDC). Following the implementation of new innovations, student demand for programs has increased significantly. Ms. Newman attributed the success of both centers to their well-respected leaders.

Christopher Witko, Executive Director of UC Center Sacramento, shared its mission statement: “UCCS advances the University’s mission of teaching, research, and public service by training future State leaders, addressing critical public policy challenges, and

¹ Roll call vote required by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act [Government Code §11123(b)(1)(D)] for all meetings held by teleconference.

supporting California State government.” Mr. Witko underscored the transformative nature of internship experiences and the important role that UCCS could play in California. He recalled that he was tasked with growing enrollment when he joined UCCS in September 2025. Since then, UCCS enrolled the largest ever number of students last winter and spring, and over 100 students were anticipated to enroll this summer. UCCS has also expanded its social media presence with the help of its students and marketing staff from UC Davis Summer Sessions and increased campus engagement by maintaining relationships with advisors and meeting staff from various academic departments. Mr. Witko, who has visited eight campuses himself, observed that students were the most effective form of outreach.

Student stipends, drawn from financial support approved by the Regents, enabled a large variety of students to participate in UCCS programming. Of the students who participated in UCCS this past year, 45 percent were first-generation college students, 75 percent identified as people of color, and 37 percent came from underrepresented minority groups. The UCCS program, available for students in both the quarter and semester systems, combined experiential learning with academic courses that expose students to government processes and policy problems and solutions. For instance, the course in California government covered policies such as Proposition 13 and the California Environmental Quality Act as well as issues such as homelessness and affordability. In Mr. Witko’s policy course, he taught students prudent use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the generation and dissemination of research. These courses provided students with substantive information and skills that they could apply to their internships and future careers.

Mr. Witko highlighted the internships of two recent participants. Riley Fong, a student from UC Riverside, processed judicial nominations in Governor Newsom’s office. Ani Villalba, a student from UC Santa Cruz, supported the implementation of the California Hope, Opportunity, Perseverance, and Empowerment (HOPE) for Children Trust Account Program for foster youth in the Office of the State Treasurer. Through these internships, UCCS students were contributing to critical government functions and important State programs. UCCS internships benefited both the state and the UC system, serving as a pipeline of talent into government and nonprofit organizations. As older generations retire, this pipeline would ensure that California has motivated, competent people serving the public. UCCS students exemplified the benefits of a UC education, which was particularly important given their internships in offices related to UC funding decisions and the broader support for the University. Since summer 2025, UCCS has placed over 20 interns in the Governor’s office and almost 30 interns in legislative offices. Students were also placed in constitutional offices such as the State Treasurer’s office and in a variety of State agencies.

Hundreds of UCCS alumni were now working in the State Legislature, the executive branch, local government, and nonprofit organizations. Caity Maple, who had worked as legislative staff and in nonprofit advocacy, was now a member of the Sacramento City Council. Angela Blanchard had interned at the Legislative Women’s Caucus with State Senator Liz Figueroa before she joined Political Solutions, the largest women-owned lobbying firm in the state, where she was now a partner. Joshua Hoover had worked as legislative staff after completing his internship and was now an elected member of the California State Assembly.

UCCS planned to continue its long history of serving as an interface between UC faculty, research, government, and other practitioners through the new UCCS Policy Collaboratory, in which students, faculty, and external stakeholders work together to generate and disseminate knowledge that can help solve the state's most pressing problems. This summer, for instance, UCCS students worked with the California Research Bureau to conduct a needs assessment of legislative staff and to identify potential UC resources that could fill these knowledge and skill gaps.

Tanya Golash-Boza, Executive Director of UC Washington Center, stated that UCDC was launched with the bold vision of being the home and voice of UC in the nation's capital. In its 25th year, UCDC was growing, expanding access, and strengthening UC's presence in Washington, D.C. UCDC now served an increasingly diverse group of students from all nine undergraduate campuses, with 37 percent identifying as Hispanic or Latino(a), compared with 24 percent systemwide, and exceeding the University's average number of first-generation and Pell-eligible students. Four investments led to such progress. First, in fall 2023, UCDC launched a fund to provide \$1,000 scholarships for students in unpaid internships. Nearly 40 percent of students reported that these scholarships influenced their decision to enroll. Second, UCDC was working more closely with campuses to reach out to more students. Third, UCDC redesigned the curriculum and obtained systemwide course approvals so that students from more majors could participate. Fourth, UCDC expanded and strengthened its internship network, adding 144 new internship sites in one year and sustaining placements during disruptions in the federal government. Ninety percent of students rated their experience as "excellent," and student satisfaction has augmented applications, enrollment, and growth.

Financial support has helped UCDC further accelerate that progress. Fiat Lux, UC's captive insurance company, invested nearly \$250,000 to create pathways into Washington, D.C.'s financial sector. This investment funded nine paid internships every year at the District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking, as well as 16 scholarships. Targeted funding such as this created access in a field for students with historically fewer entry points. Applications for this program tripled in its first year.

Ms. Golash-Boza highlighted UCDC's impact through the experiences of two UCDC alumni. In 2016, Ivelisse Porroa-Garcia, a UCLA transfer student who had immigrated to the U.S. from Peru, came to Washington, D.C. to serve as an intern in then Senator Barbara Boxer's office. Ms. Porroa-Garcia later became the legislative correspondent to the Policy Director of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. She was now the Senior Vice President at Crossroads Strategies and President of the Hispanic Lobbyists Association. This year, UCDC was able to find a new placement for Ricardo Muñoz, a first-generation transfer student and Marine Corps veteran, 48 hours after his initial internship fell through. Activating its alumni network, UCDC contacted a UC Irvine alumnus who connected Mr. Muñoz to a colleague at the HillVets Foundation, where he secured his internship.

The strength of UCDC was also demonstrated by the employers who host interns year after year. Since 2020, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) has hosted 76 UCDC students, and Kohn, Kohn, and Colapinto has hosted 34 students. In 2024, Elijah

Church from UC Santa Cruz and Enya Lopez from UCLA worked with LULAC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to address hurricane misinformation and to connect Spanish-speaking communities to critical federal resources. Employers valued UCDC students and trusted their preparation and ability in high-stakes settings.

Ms. Golash-Boza underscored UCDC's record-level enrollment, the diversity of its students, the improvement of its curriculum, and the depth and resilience of its partnerships. Students left UCDC with experience, networks, and a clearer pathway into public service. UCDC planned to continue expanding access, increasing external support, and strengthening the University's presence in Washington, D.C.

Regent Reilly asked whether UCCS would reach full capacity if it enrolls 100 students. Mr. Witko replied that 108 students committed to enroll in the program this summer. UCCS was reaching classroom capacity, which was a major constraint, and was working to build on the recent increase in enrollment.

Regent Reilly asked about the effort to reconfigure space at the UC Student and Policy Center, where UCCS was located. Ms. Newman replied that, in addition to the academic program, the UC Student and Policy Center housed the California Policy Lab, and the Office of State Governmental Relations and some UC Health staff planned to move into the building. There was also strong public programming. In Ms. Newman's view, UCCS now exemplified what Regents had envisioned.

Regent Reilly shared that the California Economic Forum would be held on June 9 at the UC Student and Policy Center and was important for the State Legislature and for economic forecasting. She had previously attended the event and encouraged all to attend.

Regent-designate Melton shared that it was through his participation in UCDC that he obtained his first job in Washington, D.C. and recalled hosting UCDC interns as well. He asked whether UCDC reached full enrollment capacity and, if not, about efforts to reach full capacity. Ms. Golash-Boza responded that UCDC reached full enrollment capacity in the spring and summer. With 250 students enrolled, UCDC was on track to reach full capacity in the fall and set a target to maintain high enrollment during the winter.

Regent Areias praised both programs and commended UC for providing students with the opportunity to experience two of the world's most important capitals. He wished to see the continued expansion of these programs and their funding becoming more stable and a more permanent part of the University's budget.

Regent Brooks asked if UCCS and UCDC programs would be open to graduate students in the future. Ms. Newman replied that there was much enthusiasm for graduate opportunities. She recalled proposing the development of a graduate internship program to the deans of UC public policy schools. The Office of the President was in talks with the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy to develop something similar to its program, and UC Davis wished to develop a policy program located at the UC Student and Policy Center. UC law school deans had expressed similar interest. In her conversations

with graduate students, Ms. Newman found that they recognized the positive impact of such opportunities on their futures.

Regent Brooks suggested that this could be an interdisciplinary endeavor.

Regent Robinson recalled that there had been a UC office in Washington, D.C. when he was an intern there over 25 years ago. He asked Ms. Golash-Boza about her vision for UCDC in the future and for her thoughts on the nature of the University's presence in Washington, D.C. Ms. Golash-Boza explained that there had been campus programs in Washington, D.C. Since launching in 2001, UCDC has worked to consolidate all of these campus programs, and full curricular integration was nearly complete. The UCDC Presidential Faculty Fellows Program, which trained faculty members to translate their research into public policy, would host its kickoff presentation of these faculty's policy ideas the following week at UCDC, followed by briefings on Capitol Hill on immigration policy, health equity, and technology policy in order to share UC research with members of the U.S. Congress. Next year, UCDC planned to expand its public-facing events and to secure additional external support.

Committee Vice Chair Sarris invited Student Observer Teesha Sreeram to make remarks.

Ms. Sreeram expressed excitement about the positive outcomes from UCDC and UCCS, as these were powerful examples of experiential learning and investment in students. Financial support, housing, and other resources enable students from a wide range of backgrounds to participate and succeed. Ms. Sreeram observed that UC provides sustained funding to what it prioritized but not to student wellness, namely recovery from substance abuse. Since only a few UC campuses had formal collegiate recovery programs, many students in recovery did not have access to consistent community, dedicated spaces, or specialized staff. If the University recognizes that student success depends on more than just academics, then this same principle should guide UC's approach to recovery and mental health support. Ms. Sreeram urged the University to consider adding to its budget collegiate recovery programs and to professional staff and peer support for these programs across all campuses. She stated that ensuring that students are well enough to access opportunities, persist, and graduate is just as important as creating those opportunities.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff