

The Regents of the University of California

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

January 20–21, 2026

The Public Engagement and Development Committee met on the above date at the UCLA Luskin Conference Center, Los Angeles campus.

Members present: Regents Hernandez, Komoto, Robinson, Sarris, and Wang; Advisory members Craven, Melton, and Scott; Chancellors Hu and Muñoz; Staff Advisor Frías

In attendance: Regents Anguiano and Leib, Regents Analyst Sheridan, Deputy General Counsel Drumm, Senior Vice President Turner, Chancellors Frenk and Larive, and Recording Secretary Li

The meeting convened at 5:05 p.m. with Committee Chair Sarris presiding.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of July 16, 2025 were approved, Regents Hernandez, Komoto, Robinson, Sarris and Wang voting “aye.”<sup>1</sup>

**2. GREEN GROUNDS CERTIFICATION AND BIODIVERSITY, UCLA**

[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.]

Senior Vice President Turner introduced the item, noting that UCLA is the first campus in California to achieve Re:wild Your Campus’ Gold level Green Grounds Certification, managing over 90 percent of its landscapes without synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. This achievement reflected UCLA’s broader commitment to biodiversity management, including the incorporation of native plant landscapes and collaborations with tribal partners.

Nurit Katz, Chief Sustainability Officer at UCLA, provided an overview of Re:wild Your Campus and UCLA’s efforts. Ms. Katz acknowledged the advocacy of the program’s founders, UC Berkeley students Mackenzie Feldman and Bridget Gustafson and indicated that all ten campuses were developing integrated pest management plans. UCLA became the first campus in California to achieve Gold level certification, followed by UC Berkeley. This certification recognized the contributions of campus facilities management, grounds teams, leadership, and housing and athletics offices. All UCLA groundskeepers have earned a California Native Plant Landscaper Certificate through the Theodore Payne Foundation, and the campus has made a pledge to be part of the international Nature

---

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

Positive Universities Alliance. UCLA's award-winning landscape plan focused on transitioning landscapes to native, climate-resilient plants and collaborating with tribal partners to incorporate traditional ecological knowledge. The plan aligned with the City of Los Angeles' Biodiversity Index and evaluated campus connectivity and habitats.

UCLA has transformed underutilized or ornamental lawn or turf into native, climate-resilient plantings. Projects across campus have reduced water use, enhanced biodiversity, and created functional and educational spaces, including outdoor study areas, bioswales for stormwater management, and pollinator habitats. One of the earliest such conversion projects over a decade ago at Murphy Hall saved millions of gallons of water. In addition to cost savings from reduced water use, these projects also received rebates through UCLA's turf replacement program. With a grant from National Audubon Society, students from the Bruin Birding Club worked with facilities management to transform the ivy by the Geology Building into a pollinator garden. UCLA has hosted tours of these projects for international visitors as well as local schools and companies. Through the Senior Practicum of UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability (IOES), a major corporation has engaged students to develop a similar approach for its location in Southern California, which would serve as a model for its sites across North America. The UCLA campus served as a living laboratory, a site for applied learning and research. Sage Hill, for instance, is now a 3.5-acre native California habitat providing an area for teaching and undergraduate research opportunities. Students from restoration classes and the Ecological Restoration Association, elementary school students, and community members have been restoring Stone Canyon Creek.

UCLA and public health researchers found that tree canopy vegetation and park access had significant impacts on life expectancy, and UCLA recently launched a new program in ecological medicine that focused on the clinical applications of nature. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), climate change and biodiversity loss increasingly threatened nature, human lives, livelihoods, and well-being around the world, and would not be resolved unless they are addressed together. The State has taken on a national and international leadership role in conservation through 30x30 California, an initiative to conserve 30 percent of the California's land and coastal waters by 2030, and the University was a major part of this effort through projects like the California Conservation Genomics Project. In 2024, a UC delegation led by Scripps Research attended the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 16). In the future, the University could amplify its global impact through a systemwide commitment to biodiversity, modeling ecological practices on UC campuses, joining the Nature Positive Universities Alliance, and achieving Green Grounds and other certifications on all campuses.

A recent study in *Nature* found that pesticides affected non-target species. At UCLA, researchers were studying how great horned owls, which have nested on the UCLA campus for decades, adapt to urban environments, and facilities were transitioning from rodenticides to electronic traps to protect them and other wildlife. UCLA's community

science project iNaturalist had over 37,000 observations of over 2,800 species of plants and animals.

Committee Chair Sarris encouraged all UC campuses to pursue Green Grounds Certification, emphasizing benefits to both environmental and human health. Regents expressed support for expanding these practices systemwide.

Regent-designate Craven asked how campuses obtained a Green Grounds Certification and how the different levels are determined. Ms. Katz replied that the certification levels—bronze, silver, gold, and platinum—were determined by the degree to which a campus has transitioned from the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers. A Gold level certification meant that a campus transitioned 90 percent or more of its managed areas. While the application for certification was manageable, the transition process required sustained effort and training. Re:wild Your Campus offered educational workshops to help campuses.

Regent-designate Craven suggested that UCLA develop a life-cycle analysis of the social, economic, and health benefits of these efforts. Ms. Katz expressed agreement, adding that this could be a student research project for the IOES Senior Practicum.

Chancellors Muñoz and Larive expressed interest in pursuing certification at their campuses.

Faculty Representative Scott endorsed the connection between climate change and biodiversity. With regard to the campus being a living laboratory, she underscored the importance of integrating this work with UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR). Ms. Katz shared that she served on the UC Systemwide Pesticide Oversight Committee and was currently the ANR Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program coordinator for UCLA. She underscored the benefit of IPM of connecting ANR further with the campuses. Ms. Katz wished to work more closely with the Natural Reserve System, adding that UC could be more unified in its approach to this work.

### 3. **UPDATE ON SYSTEMWIDE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

[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.]

Regent Emeritus Alfonso Salazar presented an update on the UC Chicano Latinx Alumni Association (CLAA), a systemwide collective of alumni from all ten UC campuses. He described CLAA's mission to support the University's overall advancement and better serve Chicano(a)/Latino(a) communities both on and off campus, including alumni, staff, faculty, and students. CLAA accomplished its mission by connecting alumni across campuses, generations, and careers; engaging the University through dialogue, partnership, and shared goals; and supporting UC's public service mission through advocacy, civic engagement, and community presence. CLAA's strategic framework aimed to increase alumni leadership and engagement across the system and amplify alumni voices across UC

and public policy arenas. This framework ensured that alumni voices, leadership, and advocacy are coordinated and influential at UC and in the community, and it led to outcomes such as stronger alumni engagement, increased representation, coordinated advocacy, and a deep partnership between the University and alumni.

Neptaly “Taty” Aguilera, Co-Chair of CLAA, paid tribute to the parents and grandparents of Chicano(a) and Latino(a) students and alumni, and to the University system for being so welcoming to the Chicano(a)/Latino(a) community. CLAA engaged all ten campuses through outreach, dialogue, and programming designed to strengthen connections and support student success.

Regent Emeritus Salazar stated that CLAA stayed connected through partnership, advocacy, and shared responsibility for the UC mission, and by building alumni communities so that the University’s progress would be sustained.

Regent Emeritus Salazar and Mr. Aguilera shared personal reflections on the transformative impact of a UC education and the importance of maintaining strong alumni connections across generations. They emphasized CLAA’s role in supporting first-generation students and fostering long-term engagement with the University.

Regents Komoto and Wang and Regent-designate Melton commended CLAA’s systemwide impact and its contributions to student access and success. They highlighted opportunities to expand mentorship, improve awareness of campus resources, and strengthen support for prospective students, current students, and recent alumni. In response to a question about sustainability, Regent Emeritus Salazar responded that CLAA addressed systemwide budget constraints through fundraising, resource development, and leadership cultivation across all ten alumni associations. Patricia Nguyen, Director of Systemwide Alumni Engagement at UCOP, added that knowledge-sharing and cross-campus collaboration, along with long-term efforts since 2015, have strengthened the organization and supported engagement of first-generation alumni.

Ms. Nguyen stated that CLAA demonstrated the power of alumni and the many ways they could give to UC beyond philanthropy. CLAA served as a model for other alumni groups.

Regent Emeritus Salazar invited the Regents to join CLAA’s upcoming activities and thanked them for their partnership and support. He described summits held at various campuses that featured discussions of student and alumni engagement and fundraising, as well as guest speakers such as elected officials. Mr. Aguilera expressed pride in longtime CLAA members like Monique Limón, the first Latina President Pro Tempore of the California State Senate.

Regent Hernandez credited alumni who paved the way for him and others, and he offered to do the same for the next generation of students.

Staff Advisor Frías thanked CLAA for the support it has provided to alumni like herself.

Regent-designate Craven asked how students and recent alumni could help CLAA advance its efforts. Regent Emeritus Salazar encouraged students and alumni to engage with the community, participate in events, and serve as mentors.

Chancellor Muñoz remarked that the success of Latino(a) alumni grew out of the efforts of those who created a sense of belonging, and that today's Latino(a) alumni had a responsibility to continue this work. He opined that Chancellors and Regents should support CLAA and groups like it to ensure that the University continues to give individuals an opportunity to succeed.

Committee Chair Sarris introduced Student Observer Seanbiron Johnson, a mechanical engineering major and research assistant at UC Berkeley. In addition to being a member of the Associated Students of the University of California, the Black Engineering and Science Student Association, and the Peter E. Haas Public Service Leaders Program, Mr. Johnson helped launch a scholarship program for low-income students. Committee Chair Sarris invited Mr. Johnson to make remarks.

Mr. Johnson shared three ways that systemwide alumni associations could better benefit students. First, he suggested establishing mentorship program pairing alumni with students from first-generation, low-income, Black, Latino(a), and Native American, and other historically disadvantaged backgrounds. Second, systemwide alumni associations could make their networks more accessible to students. Mr. Johnson shared that campus resources were not well promoted. Third, alumni should receive support, such as career services, after graduation.

Regent Wang expressed agreement. Students' and alumni's relationship with the University entailed lifelong learning and support. CLAA and other organizations were providing support, especially to young alumni amidst technological and economic shifts. Alumni could leverage their own experiences to help students navigate the many resources that already exist at UC.

Committee Chair Sarris underscored the importance of lifelong learning in order to better connect with alumni. He expressed concern about the many times that access to resources had been raised as an issue.

Mr. Johnson suggested the formation of a systemwide Native American alumni association like CLAA and the UC Black Alumni Association. Committee Chair Sarris shared that his tribe, the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, provided opportunities for California Indians to attend UC tuition-free. In his view, there were too few Native alumni to create a systemwide association.

Mr. Johnson suggested that UC alumni earnings data be disaggregated by demographic groups in order to identify disparities. For example, earnings data from alumni who participated in programs such as in the Educational Opportunity Program, Summer Bridge, and the McNair Scholars Program could show whether these programs are effective. Committee Chair Sarris stated that the UC Accountability Report should have those

categories. He opined that earnings disparities could also be attributed to broader social contexts; one’s life circumstances might persist beyond graduation.

Regent-designate Melton stated that UC Davis had a Native American Alumni Association, and one did not need to be UC Davis alumnus to join it. He suggested that UC could humanize data with personal anecdotes.

Regent Wang suggested that students and alumni utilize data, including earnings data, compiled by Institutional Research and Academic Planning (IRAP), which was available online through the UC Information Center.

Committee Chair Sarris asked whether earnings data were available at the UC Information Center. Ms. Turner responded in the affirmative.

The Committee recessed at 6:25 p.m.

.....  
The Committee reconvened on January 21, 2026 at 9:40 a.m. with Committee Chair Sarris presiding.

Members present: Regents Hernandez, Komoto, Kounalakis, Myers, Robinson, Sarris, and Wang; Ex officio members Milliken and Reilly; Advisory members Craven, Melton, Tokita, and Scott, and Chancellors Assanis, Hu, May, and Muñoz; Staff Advisor Frías

In attendance: Regents Anguiano, Brooks, Cohen, Leib, Makarechian, Park, and Sures, Faculty Representative Palazoglu, Staff Advisor Hanson, Secretary and Chief of Staff Lyall, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Bustamante, Provost Newman, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Brostrom, Executive Vice President Rubin, Senior Vice President Turner, Vice Presidents Kao and Lloyd, Chancellors Frenk, Gillman, Hawgood, and Larive, and Recording Secretary Li

4. **ENDORSEMENT OF INSPIRING CHANGE: THE CAMPAIGN FOR UC SANTA CRUZ**

The President of the University recommended that the Public Engagement and Development Committee recommend that the Regents endorse Inspiring Change: The Campaign for UC Santa Cruz.

[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.]

Senior Vice President Turner introduced the action to endorse Inspiring Change: The Campaign for UC Santa Cruz, the campus’ second comprehensive fundraising campaign.

Chancellor Larive highlighted UC Santa Cruz’s rapidly rising trajectory—its extraordinary momentum in research, student demand, and national and global recognition. The campus was regularly ranked among the top universities nationally for students seeking to make a positive impact on the world, and UCSC faculty were among the most influential researchers. According to the analytics company Clarivate, UC Santa Cruz ranked first among public universities in the U.S. and fifth in the world for highly cited researchers. UCSC remained deeply committed to educational access and affordability; nearly 70 percent of its students received financial aid and nearly one-third were first-generation college students. The campus had an opportunity to ensure that excellence and access continue to advance in tandem. Inspiring Change: The Campaign for UC Santa Cruz had five interconnected priorities: providing all students with life-changing educational experiences, advancing bold solutions to climate and environmental challenges, expanding health and wellness locally and in the world, cultivating research and innovation, and fostering creativity and dialogue. These priorities reflected UCSC’s longstanding strengths, indicated where philanthropy could most accelerate the campus’ impact, and demonstrated that students were its priority. The campaign goal was \$750 million to be raised by 2030. During its quiet phase, the campaign raised \$365 million from approximately 42,000 donors, which surpassed the total raised in UCSC’s previous campaign that closed in 2017.

Mark Delos Reyes Davis, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement at UC Santa Cruz, stated that Inspiring Change was the result of several years of careful planning. Inspiring Change would span ten years, beginning with the quiet phase in 2020 and ending in 2030. UCSC began the quiet phase of the campaign in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, and debuted a new campus brand identity two years later. The campaign reflected students’ desire to make a positive impact on the world and UCSC’s consequential and transformative research and public service. In 2023, the campus completed its strategic plan, Leading the Change, which informed the priorities of the campaign before it entered its public phase. Campaign co-chairs, alumnae Julie Packard and Bev Crair, were supported by the UCSC Foundation Board, the UCSC Alumni Council, the Chancellor’s Advisory Board, and the Deans Advisory Councils. Philanthropic support was steadily growing; the campus raised around \$70 million in each of the past two fiscal years. The major initiatives launched and donations received during the quiet phase illustrated the impact of the campaign. The Student Success Initiative, launched in 2021 to boost student financial support, mentorship, experiential learning, and successful careers, has raised more than \$86 million so far. The \$23 million Sabatte Family Scholarship, the largest cash gift the campus ever received, would fund 40 Fulbright Scholarships annually for the next 30 years. The Strathearn Ranch National Reserve, a \$10 million land and endowment gift, would give faculty and students permanent access to thousands of acres for field courses, long-term ecological monitoring, and climate and conservation research. UCSC’s new Social Documentation Laboratory, the result of over \$3 million in gifts, provided students with space, tools, and mentorship to learn how to use film and digital media to share research. UCSC launched the public phase of the campaign in November 2025 with an event at Monterey Bay Aquarium and an event in Los Angeles. More gatherings were planned in California and across the country for alumni and donors.

Regent-designate Melton asked whether UC Santa Cruz had a goal for the number and categories of donors, such as students, staff, faculty, alumni, and friends of the University. Mr. Davis replied that there were no specific goals by category, but it was a priority to increase alumni engagement.

Regent-designate Melton asked if UCSC was activating first-time donors, noting that studies have shown that first-time donors were 40 percent more engaged in the next campaign. Mr. Davis agreed. At UC Santa Cruz, data showed that donors who gave for seven consecutive years often became donors for life, so UCSC was emphasizing consistent giving.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee approved the President's recommendation and voted to present it to the Board, Regents Hernandez, Komoto, Kounalakis, Myers, Robinson, Sarris, and Wang voting "aye."

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff