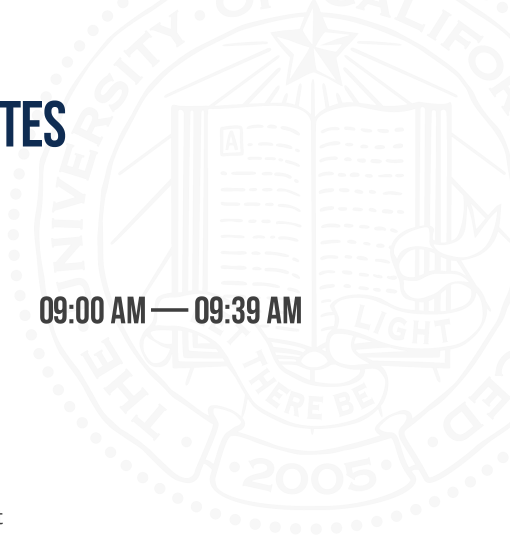




# UCMAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 | 09:00 AM — 01:00 PM (PST)  
ZOOM TELECONFERENCE | 209.228.4484



01

## WELCOME & CULTURE BUILDER

09:00 AM — 09:39 AM

- **Call to Order+ Attendance**
  - Executive Committee

1. Miguel Lopez	President
2. Steven Barillas	Vice President
3. Jonathan Ly	Secretary
4. Randell Rueda	Immediate Past President
  - Board of Directors

1. Olivia Alvarez	7. Heidi Gomez Barrios	13. Mina Tawfick
2. Desmond Daley	8. Vanessa Hernandez	14. Cristian Vargas
3. Eve Delfin	9. Bob Lopez	15. Ritu VPS
4. Gehad Elhanafy	10. Jason Matthew Miguel	16. Angela Yang
5. Keith Ellis	11. Gameelah Mohamed	17. Brandon Yu
6. Kimberly Farias	12. Kavi Reddy	
  - External Relations Staff

1. Danielle Armedilla	Associate Vice Chancellor & Senior Advisor
2. Magdalena Castañeda	Director, Alumni Engagement
3. Gabrielle “Gaby” Orduna	Alumni Relations & Events Specialist
  - Guest

1. Josiah Beharry   UC Student Regent
---------------------------------------
- **Culture Builder**
  - Activity: UC Merced Jeopardy
  - Goal: Test alumni board’s knowledge of UC Merced facts and history.

02

## ALUMNI RELATIONS REPORT

09:39 AM — 10:10 AM

- **Alumni Relations**
  - Campus Updates:
    - 1. Medical Education Building is on track for completion on Fall 2026
    - 2. UC Merced on Main Street recently opened in Fall 2024, increasing UC Merced’s presence in the community
      - a. Programs housed at the new location include:
        - i. University Extension | Professional & Continuing Education
        - ii. Faculty Research | Community Research Lab
        - iii. Community Outreach | Engagement Center
  - Alumni Updates
    - 1. Alumni At-A-Glance: 20,002 Alumni strong with an additional 1,200 graduates anticipated for Spring 2025
      - a. 20,002 Alumni By School
        - i. SSHA: 10,276
        - ii. Natural Sciences: 4,863
        - iii. Engineering: 3,762
        - iv. Graduate Division: 1,101
      - b. Geographical Breakdown
        - i. 96% West | 19,130 Alumni
        - ii. 1.2% Southeast | 240 Alumni
        - iii. 1.1% Southwest | 229 Alumni
        - iv. 0.8% Northeast | 152 Alumni
        - V. 0.8% Midwest | 156 Alumni
        - Vi. 0.5% Other Regions | 95 Alumni
    - Consists of international alumni and those serving in the Armed Forces
    - C. Alumni by Age: Average Age is 29
      - i. 57.4% Aged 19 — 29
      - ii. 38.6% Aged 30 — 39
      - iii. 3.6% Aged 40 — 59
      - iv. 0.3% Aged 60+

\* Indicates Action Item

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- a. Alumni by Identification
    - i. 52.6% Alumnae
    - ii. 46.9% Alumni
    - iii. 0.5% Alum
- General Updates:
  - 1. Give to UC Merced
    - a. 550 Donor Goal | Actual Donors was 647
    - b. \$250k Gift Goal | Actual Gifts totaled \$1.4 million
  - 2. Commencement Keynote: Dr. Yuriana Aguilar '16
    - a. UC Merced's first undocumented student to obtain a Ph.D. ([see article](#))
      - i. University Extension | Professional & Continuing Education
      - ii. Faculty Research | Community Research Lab
      - iii. Community Outreach | Engagement Center
  - 3. Career Events
    - a. 02/08/25 | UC Davis Alumni Careers & Identity Conference
    - b. 02/20/25 | UC Alumni Career - Charting a Green Career: Insights from Environment Industry Leaders
    - c. 03/01/25 | UC Riverside - Women's Leadership Conference
    - d. 03/18/25 | UC Tech Night in LinkedIn
  - 4. Wildfire Resources
    - a. Volunteers: UCLA coordinating volunteers through FEMA at the UCLA Research Park
    - b. Diploma Recovery: Free replacement available through the 10 campuses Registrar office
- **Student Alumni Association**
  - Upcoming Events
    - 1. February 2025
      - a. 02/14/25 | Fundraiser + Tabling at Cupid's Club Crawl
      - b. 02/20/25 | A.C.C.E.S.S. Engineering
      - c. 02/27/25 | SAA General Meeting
    - 2. March 2025 | Student Philanthropy Month
      - a. Date TBD | Dinner for Champvocates
      - b. 03/14/25 | Philanthropy Fair
      - c. 03/15/25 | Bobcats Give Back: Day of Service
      - d. 03/20/25 | Game Night
    - 3. April 2025
      - a. 04/03/25 | SAA General Meeting
      - b. 04/17/25 | SAA General Meeting
      - c. 04/19/25 | Bobcat Day Tabling
      - D. Date TBD | End of Year Celebration
    - 2. May 2025
      - a. 05/01/25 | Ctrl+Alt+DelEAT: Reboot for Finals
  - Highlights:
    - 1. Fall 2024 Events
      - a. Hosted 60 students at the October Pumpkin Paint & Sip
      - b. Hosted a Friendsgiving with alumni and students in November
      - c. Participated in OSI's Winter Wonderland
    - 2. Golden Lynx
      - a. 10 students that are participating in the program
      - b. Applications are still open

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## • General Discussion

- Staff Announcement: Alumni Relations will be under the leadership of Assistant Vice Chancellor & Senior Advisor, Danielle Armedilla '12
  1. Questions:
    - a. *Randell*: What can the board look forward to with the realignment?
      - i. *Danielle*: Working with Maggie, Gaby, and Patricia to learn how we can amplify the work of Alumni Relations.
    - b. *Eve*: How does this impact our current work given the reorganization?
      - i. *Danielle*: No impact expected, it was primarily a reporting structure shift to address the growing needs of the division.
    - c. *Eve*: Are we still looking for an Executive Director and what does that look like?
      - i. *Danielle*: We are taking a pause at this moment. Given state budget cuts, we are looking at things as a campus and division holistically with the needs of the organization. More details to come, but we are looking at every open position to best preserve current staff.
    - d. *Gehad*: Given state budget cuts, will the alumni board have a line item in the External Relations budget?
      - i. *Danielle*: Programmatic funding such as the UCMAA board] and the Foundation board, will still have funding for programs but are taking a step back to look at what holistically state dollars will be impacted. Can't speak to [the alumni board having a line item budget] right now, but we can dig into that.
    - e. *Miguel*: Is there any data/information with the respect to the Journey Fund?
      - i. *Danielle*: Will look into that.
    - e. *Keith*: To uplift commentary from fellow board members around resources, including staff. Budgets are priorities, overarching is Alumni Relations and this board a priority for External Relations? When I joined the board 12 years ago, we had the same level of staff that we do now. We have almost four times the number of alumni to engage then back then.

Will our remaining two staff have the time and the budget we know they are capable in support of alumni relations and alumni engagement. They are doing alumni relations, but easy to see they are being pulled in a lot of different ways from alumni relations and alumni engagement, which is a detriment to the board and what they're trying to accomplish. So I really want to support them as much as we can as a board. Can you provide any light on that?

- i. *Danielle*: This board is a priority for ER. Before the transition I recognize they are doing a lot. Given budget across UC Merced I don't know at large if we'll be making shifts in hiring right now. Looking at the portfolio of [Alumni Relations] these past few weeks, I'm figuring out priorities with them to know how to best support the, and everyone else, is one of my top priorities over the next few months.

03

## UC STUDENT REGENT UPDATE

10:10 AM — 10:45 AM

### • Presentation by Josiah Beharry, UC Student Regent

- Updates & News
  1. Maddison Crump honored by the UC Board of Regents with the [Regents Foster Youth Award](#)
    - a. First UC Merced recipient to receive honor
  2. Promise Housing Plan
    - a. Mixed housing project with Merced College, expected completion by 2027
      - i. Will offer a transition phase for Merced College students transferring to UC Merced

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3. Native Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST)
  - a. Regent Beharry's proposed amendment requiring immediate implementation of 10 PDST waiver
    - i. March meeting to amend Regents policy 3103—Policy on PDST
4. Post-Election Updates
  - a. UCOP released a statement in support of undocumented students
  - b. Administration cutting NIH and NFS funding/grants
  - c. Changes to Medi-Cal and Medi-Caid may impact UC Health centers
5. UC Budget Cuts
  - a. Net reduction of \$271.6 million to UC base budget
  - b. Reduction of \$109.8 million to Middle Class Scholarship (relative to 2024-2025 funding level)
  - c. 2025-2026 compact funding deferred to 2026-2027

- Ways to Support:

1. Issuing a statement of support from the UC Merced Alumni Association
2. Reach out to alumni who may be affected at this time

• **General Discussion:**

- Board Motion:

1. Background Information:
  - a. *Keith:* UCMAA previously issued a resolution in support of UC's legal action against the Trump administration for attempting to eliminate DACA. Another resolution was passed in support of hiring undocumented students.
  - b. *Randell:* As we think over this opportunity presented to us, there will be some additional movements handled by the executives and alumni relations. They will discuss how to issue the resolutions, connect with our UCOP contact Patricia Nguyen, Director Systemwide Alumni Engagement as to how these resolutions are distributed and what offices and desks will receive it. We will also send to Chancellor Muñoz so he is aware.
- 2: Motion to approve previous resolutions
  - a. Motion: Keith Ellis
  - b. Second: Randell Rueda
  - c. Vote: Motion approved

04

**BREAK**

**10:45 AM — 10:53 AM**

05

**AAUC UPDATE**

**10:53 AM — 11:06 AM**

• **Updates by Miguel Lopez**

- What is AAUC?

1. The Alumni Associations of UC (AAUC) is a convening space for alumni leaders consisting of the alumni association presidents across the 10 campuses, and led by the four alumni officers who serve on the Board of Regents (Alfonso Salazar, Geoffrey Pack, Brian Komoto, and Ann Wang)

- Brief Updates

1. Recently discussed the LA wildfires and the resources available to alumni including the diploma recovery effort
2. The presidents were involved in conversations around the UC's Presidential Search and provided feedback about the importance of alumni as part of the criteria
3. Advocacy has been a crucial focus with the impending 8% cut to UC; approximately \$275 million cut coming this year, have already received a \$125 million cut this year
  - a. Will need to defer compact funding for 2025-2026 and the 2026-2027 compact funding may be a one-time back payment
  - b. This year's advocacy will be even more critical as we look ahead to the next 5-6 months
4. UCOP Provost and Executive Vice President, Katherine Newman, provided a high-level presentation on the topics of alumni employment data, opportunities through virtual education, and emerging policy discussions in process

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## • General Discussion

### - UC CLAA Updates | Eve Delfin

1. UC CLAA held a summit meeting in January at UC Irvine, updates share included:
  - a. Wildfire impact and relief previously mentioned (recovery resources, volunteer activities, and diploma replacement)
  - b. The upcoming UC CLAA Summit will be held in Sacramento and coincide with UC CLAA Advocacy Day on April 9
  - c. The following UC CLAA Summit meeting will be at UC Berkeley in August/September
  - d. Thank you to everyone for their support of the UC Merced UC CLAA summit who attended and help host the event logistics including Maggie and Gaby, thank you for allowing me to represent UC Merced at the UC CLAA level
2. UC CLAA will continue to work in solidarity with UCOP on special projects

### - Open Comments

1. *Desmond*: Being data centric is key, there are various tools we can utilize to target certain demographics. Would like to see what strategic goal we are aiming for and what story are we looking to tell for the year from our social media standpoint.
- a. *Miguel*: Thank you for sharing. KPIs are important to helping us understand if we are making an improvement with our goals

06

## UCMAA COMMITTEE BREAKOUTS & REPORTS

11:06 AM — 12:15 PM

## • Advocacy & Awareness

### - Overview

1. Building UC Advocacy Network (UCAN) Awareness
  - a. Aiming for full board sign-up
  - b. Focusing on developing UC Merced specific content to dive UCAN engagement
  - c. Aiming to amplify UCAN promotions through the year (campaigns, sign-ups, webinars, etc.)
2. Creating a list of UC Merced alumni in policy/government roles to represent UC Merced at UC Day
  - a. Leveraging available tools to identify potential candidates and connect them with UCMAA
3. Identifying collaborative efforts:
  - a. Looking to coordinate a meeting with Nate Monroe, Director of the Center for Analytical Political Engagement (CAPE)

### - Open Discussion

1. *Olivia*: I am working with Nate on starting a Political Engagement Living Learning Community on campus. He is a great guy and can say would be willing to meet/collaborate with us!

## • Engagement & Outreach

### - Overview

1. UCMAA Board Applications
  - a. Target: What are things we would have liked to know and what you can do on the board
2. Bobcats Helping Bobcats
  - a. Looking to pilot an informal program featuring a picture, brief description, and LinkedIn profile QR code
3. Chill & Chats
  - a. Continue d partnership with SAA

## • Equity, Justice, & Inclusive Excellence

### - Overview

1. Alumni Highlights
  - a. Will be looking at how to maximize celebration months to highlight alumni stories impacting their communities
  - B. Keith: Even highlighting board members, like Brooklynn Pham was for Black History Month and Women's History month is a great opportunity
2. Collaborations with UC Merced EJIE
  - a. Exploring opportunities to connect with Vice Chancellor Delia, to better understand how committee efforts can align with the university's work and mission
  - \* Danielle to connect Eve with Delia

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## • Giving & Gratitude

### - Overview

1. Giving Tuesday Recap
  - a. Dip in alumni donors in 2024 (41% from 65% in 2023)
  - b. Succeeded in donor campaign donor goal (over 550)
  - c. Many challenge opportunities were unfulfilled
  - d. The creative team is working on a Thank You card design, may be expanding cards to other donors as well
2. Warm Blanket/Clothing Drive Results
  - a. Extended to the end of January
    - i. Collected 1 scar & beanie, 3 children sweaters, 1 small throw blanket, and 15 blankets
    - ii. Dropping off donations to Merced Count Rescue Mission on Friday (2/7) for any last donations
3. Student Philanthropy Month (March 2025)
  - a. Month-long initiative dedicated to building a culture of philanthropy and awareness at UC Merced
  - b. Includes *Dinner for Champvocates*, *Crowdfunding for a cause*, and *Bobcats Give Back*
    - i. Collected 1 scar & beanie, 3 children sweaters, 1 small throw blanket, and 15 blankets
    - ii. Dropping off donations to Merced Count Rescue Mission on Friday (2/7) for any last donations
4. Workshops
  - A. Working to host a philanthropy workshop, with tentative dates of February 22, March 1, and March 8.
  - \* Poll for dates launched

## • General Discussion

### - UCMAA Board Giving:

1. *Keith*: Would like to propose the establishment of a new endowment by the UCMAA Board.
  - a. For historical context:
    - i. The UCMAA Scholarship was an idea born from Giving Tuesday;
      - 2/3 of funding came from 2 individuals
    - ii. The Board then came together for the establishment of the UCMAA Journey Fund
  - b. Would like to propose the establishment of a Graduate Student Fellowship next
    - i. Would require a donation of 3k over 5 years from each board member
    - ii. Could leverage our personal networks of alumni to match the board's contributions
2. *Open Discussion*:
  - a. The board has not supported a major project in a some time, indicating an opportunity for renewed involvement
  - b. One member expressed concern that systemic issues—particularly those involving UCOP's hiring practices and compensation for Graduate Student Researchers and Post-doctoral Scholars—contribute to funding challenges
  - c. Given expressed concerns around the topic of an endowment, no further action was taken at this time

07

## UCMAA BOARD OPERATIONS

12:15 PM — 12:27 PM

## • Nominations

### - Scholarship Selection Committee

1. Purpose: Review applications and select four finalists (SSHA, SNS, ENG, and one exceptional application)
2. Committee Members:
  - a. Alumni Relations Director or Designate
  - b. Executive Officers (President, Vice President, & Secretary)
  - c. Two members (alumni or non-alumni), who are jointly appointed by the Director and President, and approved by the Board to serve on the committee
3. Timeline
  - a. February—March: Open call for committee nominations
  - b. March—April: Executive Committee reviews nominations
  - c. April 19: Discussions around nominees and a vote of confidence by the board is conducted
  - d. May— June: Review applications and finalize scholarship awardees

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- Nominating Committee
  1. Committee Members:
    - a. Immediate Past President (IPP)
    - b. Vice President (VP)
    - c. Alumni Relations Director or Designate
    - d. Two members current or former board members appointed by the board president who are ratified by the board
  2. Timeline:
    - a. February—April: Open call for committee nominations
      - i. Previous committee members may review the rubric and application with the IPP and VP
    - c. April—May: Board applications are open
    - d. June: Applicant are reviewed by the committee with the final candidates ratified by the board
  3. Open Discussion:
    - a. Keith: Reminder this is an up or down vote of the entire slate of candidates, supporting the Nominating Committee decision or sending back the nomination if the board believes the Nomination Committee did not fulfill their duty
      - i. Previous committee members may review the rubric and application with the IPP and VP

- **Meeting Minute Approval**

- Board Motion: Approve the meeting minutes
  1. Motion: Keith
  2. Second: Cristian
  3. Vote: Meeting minutes of the October 2024 meeting approved

## 08 OPEN DISCUSSION

12:37 PM — 01:18 PM

- **Special Committee**

- Committee Members:
  1. Jonathan Ly (Secretary)
  2. Randell Rueda (Immediate Past President)
  3. Keith Ellis
  4. Mina Tawfick
  5. Heidy Gomez Barrios
  6. Cristian Vargas
- Context:
  1. The committee was formed to address the conflict with the Vice President and the Immediate Past President chairing the nomination committee, but also seeking reappointment to the board following their executive term
- Next Steps:
  1. Recommendation to the board: create a one-year sabbatical appointment that the VP, IPP, and Secretary are able to utilize
    - a. For consideration:
      - i. Will the sabbatical year provide voting right?
      - ii. Will this extend terms that have concluded?
  2. Report will be finalized in April and the report will be sent to the Executive Committee for consideration

- **American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Alumni Branch | Mina Tawfick**

- Context: Mina and Heidy have been working to establish the AIAA Alumni Branch at UC Merced
- Overview:
  1. AIAA is the largest professional society for aerospace in the world; thousands of members and tremendous research have been accomplished
    - a. Student-Centered: Branches
    - b. Alumni/Professional: Chapters
  2. AIAA Student Branch is a current RCO who reached out to maintain their current growth
  3. UC Merced recently established an Aerospace bachelor degree

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4. Goals:
  - a. Serve s a bridge between students and alumni
  - b. Provide mentorship/career growth opportunities
  - c. Share knowledge to support career development
5. Alumni Leadership:
  - a. Mina Tawfick
  - b. Heidy Gomez Barrios
  - c. Jake Totter
  - d. Ethan Murcia
  - e. Nathan Ibarra
  - f. David Millet
6. Stakeholders & Partnerships:
  - a. UCMAA—AIAA Alumni Branch—AIAA Student Branch
    - i. Enables a wider reach to UC audience and promotes alumni engagement
    - ii. Mentorship, expertise, and educational resources
    - iii. Increase representation for engineering alumni
    - iv. Rebuild post-Covid with alumni affinity
  - b. Partnering with UC Davis as well
7. AIAA Alumni Brach Aspirations
  - a. Lead the creation of an AIAA professional chapter in the Central Valley
- Discussion Highlights:
  1. General support expressed for bringing AIAA-AB under the UCMAA umbrella. Emphasis on the positive momentum and alumni engagement shown by AIAA SB and AB
  2. Concerns Raised:
    - a. Limited staff bandwidth to support additional RCOs.
    - b. No clear financial support available from UCMAA at this time (though financial backing is not being requested)
    - c. Questions about why this effort was approved while others were not
    - d. Concern about setting a precedent for similar requests from other RCOs.
    - e. Liability implications need further exploration.
  3. Next Steps:
    - a. Would require additional exploration multi-campus collaboration opportunities, aligning with UCOP's current vision (e.g., similar to UC CLAA)
    - b. May need to consult UC general counsel to address liability concerns
    - c. Additional discussions to be held in April

09

## A LOOK AHEAD & CLOSING REMARKS

01:18 PM — 01:25 PM

- **Reminders**
  - Please complete the post-meeting assessment
- **Upcoming Events**
  - February
    1. UC Davis Alumni Careers & Identity Conference 2025 | Saturday, February 8
    2. Charting a Green Career: Insights from Environmental Industry Leaders Webinar | Thursday, February 2
    3. A.C.C.E.S.S. Engineering | Thursday, February 20
  - March
    1. UC Riverside Women's Leadership Conference | Saturday, March 1
    2. Student Philanthropy Month | March 1 - March 31
    3. UC Night in Tech | Tuesday, March 18
  - April
    1. Spring Grad Fair | Tuesday & Wednesday, April 1 - April 2
    2. Bobcat Day 2025 & UCMAA Board Meeting | Saturday, April 19

• Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.