



California State University SAN MARCOS

Committee for Undergraduate Research (CUGR)

MINUTES

October 16, 2025 · 12:00–1:00 PM · Administration Building 2302 · <https://csusm.zoom.us/j/82869404191>

Attendees:

Charles De Leone, Dennis Kolosov, Elinne Becket, Erika Diaz, Ezequiel Vidal, Jane Kim, Jimmy Kezos, Kang Du, Kaitlyn Woltz, Kimmie Vanderbilt, Michael McDuffie, Osmar Pinto Neto, Sheila Van Metre, Robert Iafe

1. Call to order

Chair Jane Kim called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm

2. Approval of the Agenda

Kim invited members to propose changes to the agenda. With no revision suggestions, the agenda was accepted as presented.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Kim asked members for any changes to the September 18, 2025 CUGR minutes. With no amendments proposed, the Minutes were approved as distributed.

4. Announcements & Events

Kim shared the following events and deadlines:

- [Research Seminar Series 2025-26](#), Innovative Approaches to Global & Environmental Health
 - **November 4, 2025 – ARTS 240: Andrew Spieldener**
- [Student Poster Showcase](#), Thursday, December 4, 2025
 - **Abstracts due Monday, November 3, 11:59pm**
- [Southern California Conference for Undergraduate Research \(SCCUR\)](#) at CSU Channel Islands on Saturday, November 22nd, 2025
 - Dean Trischman has offered to pay for the \$90 registration and train fare for 5 CSTEM students.
 - Add your students to this [spreadsheet](#) and CUGR will follow up to other Colleges about financial support.
- [National Conference on Undergraduate Research \(NCUR\)](#) in Richmond, VA from April 13-15, 2026
 - **December 5, 2025: Abstract Submission Deadline**
- [Kerri Mowen Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award](#)
 - Nominations due, October 20, 2025, 11:59pm
 - **Deadline for submission, November 3, 2025, 11:59pm**
 - Selection committee: Jane Kim, Nahid Majd, Dennis Kolosov, Elinne Becket, Kaitlyn Woltz
- [CUGR Student Excellence Award](#)
 - **Personal statement due Monday, November 3, 11:59pm**
 - Selection committee: Jane Kim, Jimmy Kezos, Kang Du, Kaitlyn Woltz, Osmar Pinto Neto, Brandon Moore, Liz Ridder

CUGR 2025–2026 Meeting Schedule:

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5. 2027 Statewide Student Research Competition

- Kim provided a reminder of the purpose of the annual CSU-wide student research competition, which rotates among campuses. CSUSM will host in April 2027. She then reported updates on early planning, thanked members of the CUGR subcommittee, and highlighted several time-sensitive items. Kolosov volunteered to join the faculty planning committee.
 - CUGR Subcommittee Members: Deanna Schmidt, Dennise Kolosov, Elinne Becket, Jane Kim, Jimmy Kezos, Kaitlyn Woltz, Robert Iafe
- **Time Sensitive Projects**
 - **Website:** Collaborate with IITS to develop the initial design and begin updates.
 - **Logo:** Launch a campus-wide student design competition to create an official event logo.
 - **Trophies:** Explore the possibility of partnering with a Fall 2026 art/design/engineering class to create custom award trophies
 - **Recruiting & Training:** In partnership with community organizations, coordinate room layouts, recruit and train judges and moderators, and update the presenter's guide.
 - **Session Scheduling:** Collaborate to organize presentation rooms, assign judges and moderators. Most sessions will be held on Friday, with the awards ceremony following lunch on Saturday.
 - **Community Engagement:** Plan and organize events to enhance the overall experience.
 - **Event Management:** Robert Iafe recommended using [WHOVA](#), an event management app, based on its success and engagement at a previous event.

6. Giving Day

Kim reported on the pitch and outcome from the previous Giving Day. She also reminded the committee of the existing trust spending account, which is expected to provide \$1000 annually. This amount has been allocated to the Student Excellence Awards (SEA). For the current year, an additional \$2300 is available in the account.

Committee agreed that, in line with the parameters of the funding, small awards should be allocated to SEA finalists, with the standard \$500 award to each of the two winners.

The committee agreed they would like to move forward with Giving Day, while exploring ways to direct future funds toward broader student support initiative.

Kim will research account details, and Woltz will draft the case support text for the upcoming Giving Day Campaign.

7. CUGR Feedback: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/eKXTk7eazx>

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 12:44 pm

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