



California State University SAN MARCOS

Committee for Undergraduate Research (CUGR)

MINUTES

February 19, 2026 · 12:00–1:00 PM · Administration Building 2302 · <https://csusm.zoom.us/j/82869404191>

Attendees: Charles De Leone, Deanna Schmidt, Elinne Becket, Jane Kim, Jimmy Kezos, Kang Du, Kaitlyn Woltz, Nahid Majd, Osmar Pinto Neto, Richard Armenta, Robert Iafe, Sheila Van Metre, Yu Zhang

Call to order

Chair Deanna Schmidt called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm

Approval of the Agenda

Schmidt invited members to propose changes to the agenda. No additions or corrections were raised. The agenda was accepted as distributed.

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the January 29, 2026 CUGR meeting were presented for approval. With no amendments, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Announcements & Events

- **CTREE Grant** – Richard Armenta provided an update on a NIH grant submission intended to replace URISE, which no longer exists at NIH. The proposal is due February 25, 2026. The program proposes admitting 10 students a year with a goal of 40 faculty mentors listed on the grant. Faculty support within the grant includes \$1,000 per year in allowable supply funds.
- **Grad Slam** – Friday, March 13 with a March 6 deadline to apply
- [Research Seminar Series 2025-26](#)

Symposium on Student Research, Creative Activities, and Innovation – February 27, 2026

- 48 student projects applied and have been distributed into 10 sessions.
- Judge Guidance: The committee reviewed state competition guidance clarifying that an entry consists of the “oral presentation plus written summary.” A question was raised regarding proposal-only presentations that do not yet include research results. Because the rubric includes interpretation of results and state guidance implies completed research, the committee discussed providing clearer judge guidance regarding weighting of the oral presentation and written summary, as well as how the absence of results may affect scoring in the interpretation category.
- Expectations for CSU SRC student delegates were discussed. The committee emphasized the importance of clear communication regarding responsibilities, including participation expectations, while maintaining flexibility for exceptions. Expectations will be communicated prior to students accepting travel funding.

Planning for 2027 Statewide Student Research Competition

- Subcommittee meeting scheduled for February 25 at 12:30 pm

CUGR 2025–2026 Meeting Schedule:

Time: 12:00pm–1:00pm	2025: 9/18, 10/16, 11/20
Location: ADM 2302, Zoom	2026: 1/29, 2/19 , 3/19, 4/16, 5/7

- Logo and design development will be incorporated into Ghazal Foroutan's Graphic Design course, and design concepts will be presented at the March 19, 2026, CUGR meeting.
- Due February 23: [Exceptional Service to Students](#)
- Due April 16 [Instructionally Related Activities \(IRA\) | Division of Student Affairs | CSUSM](#) - Becket
- Schmidt provided an IITS Update. Tasos indicated CSUSM may be able to build an in-house event tool. Jay Rees will work with subcommittee to establish a front page by the end of the semester.

Giving Day Funds

Committee revisited available giving day fund balance. These funds must be used as an award, requiring an application and selection process. Development of amount, application, eligibility, and selection cycle will be revisited at a future meeting.

CUGR Feedback

The committee was reminded that an anonymous [feedback form](#) is available to share comments and suggestions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 12:55 pm

CUGR 2025–2026 Meeting Schedule:

Time: 12:00pm–1:00pm	2025: 9/18, 10/16, 11/20
Location: ADM 2302, Zoom	2026: 1/29, 2/19 , 3/19, 4/16, 5/7