



California State University SAN MARCOS

Committee for Undergraduate Research (CUGR)

MINUTES

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

Attendees: Charles De Leone, Deanna Schmidt, Elinne Becket, Erika Diaz, Ghazal Foroutan, Jane Kim, Jimmy Kezos, Kang Du, Kaitlyn Woltz, Lucy H.G. Solomon, Osmar Pinto Neto, Robert Iafe, Sergio Nigenda Morales, Sheila Van Metre

Call to order

Chair Deanna Schmidt called the meeting to order at 12:07 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 February 19, 2026 CUGR meeting were presented for approval. With no amendments, the minutes were approved as distributed.

Announcements & Events

The next [Research Seminar Series](#) is scheduled for April 7th in ACD 102. Elinne Becket will be presenting 'Analyzing the Mission Bay, CA Water Microbiome Across Space and Time to Investigate Urban Impacts on Wetland Ecosystems'

Logo for 2027 CSU State Research Competition

Schmidt introduced Professor Ghazal Foroutan from Art and Media Design (AMD) and students Olivia Watson, Olivia Meyers, and Coral Nava, all with AMD majors focused on graphic design. Three logo concepts were presented, each with distinct themes and design approaches.

1. Back to Basics – Presented by Olivia Watson. The design focus was on curiosity, dedication, and adaptability. The logo uses bright primary colors and geometric shapes reminiscent of building blocks.
2. The Stars – Presented by Olivia Meyers. The design focus was wonder, ingenuity, heart, and connection. The logo incorporated simple figure illustrations and starburst elements.
3. Stamp of Approval – Presented by Coral Nava. The design focus was on diversity of disciplines and inspired by scrapbooking and collage. The logo features block letters in front of line icons and a stamp edge.

The committee applauded each design concept and will coordinate with the 2027 State Research Planning Committee and Communication department for official branding considerations. A survey will be sent to CUGR members by the end of the day. Constructive feedback to student designers and potential adjustments were encouraged as part of the learning process.

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

Symposium on Student Research, Creative Activities, and Innovation

Chair Schmidt thanked the volunteers and congratulated the student presenters. Ten presentations, twelve student delegates, and two faculty members will attend the San Jose State research competition. Delegates will receive one-on-one faculty support to refine their presentations, and all participants have been informed of event expectations.

Woltz provided feedback on improving the 2027 volunteer application by allowing volunteers to state they will volunteer wherever needed, and the committee discussed strategies for possible increased competition attendance in future years.

2027 Statewide Student Research Competition

Planning for the 2027 CSU Statewide Research Competition will continue at the March 25th meeting. Schmidt reported on hotels, sponsorship documents, and campus room reservations.

Giving Day Funds

Tabled until the April CUGR meeting

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned by acclamation at 1:01 pm

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