



Honors Transfer Council of California

March 13, 2026

Draft

| | |
|--|--|
| Tim Adell, Victor Valley Joaquin Arias, LA Harbor Rebecca Ancheta, CC of San Francisco Christina Axtell, Santa Ana Jodi Balma, Fullerton Judy Cannon, Crafton Hills Deborah Chau, Irvine Valley (?) Carol Damgen, San Bernardino Valley John Francis, De Anza Deanna Garabedian, Reedley Irena Keller, Las Positas Emily Liu, Irvine Valley | Guck Oui, Cerro Coso Erik Ozolins, Mt. San Jacinto Kathryn Sonne, Cypress Maria Rosa, UC Riverside Alannah Rosenberg, HTCC Saint Jeff Wheeler, Long Beach Christina Yamanaka-Vu, Mt. San Jacinto |
|--|--|

- I. **UCR Welcome:** Maria Rosa welcomed us to UCR and gave an overview of the things students should expect: students can only transfer into the Honors program when they transfer, there is some leeway for directors letting her know that students are more eligible than their GPAs might suggest.
- II. **Approval of February 13, 2026 meeting minutes:** The February minutes were approved as amended. Tim moved, Emily seconded.
- III. **Officer's Reports:**
 - a. **President's Report:** Joaquin noted that Foundations often have money for important functions. They want to do so for tax purposes.
 - b. **Vice President's Report:** Emily posted a Padlet on struggling on student engagement in the age of AI. Are students disengaged from activities because they're letting technology do it for them. IVC political science tried doing entirely face-to-face or hybrid courses with tests in person. They've found lowered enrollment without the online classes. They've also tried embedded tutors and more experienced student mentors. Christina affirmed the in-class method. Deanna pointed out that different course expectations create different understandings of AI involvement. Deanna pointed out that AI discussions take up much of our time. Joaquin noted that students sometimes

don't pay attention to real-time directions because they expect they can get these later. John suggested we watch the TED Talk "Do Schools Kill Creativity?" Kashima asked if students should be removed from the program for using AI. Is it academic dishonesty? She feels removal is "a bit extreme." Emily said the issue falls harder on Honors programs because of their relationship to honor. Christina argued that having a policy in place might help mitigate the issue. Jennifer noted that we need to have a discussion about the positives people cite for AI use but never flesh out. Ruth asked if our desire to help students fails to give the necessary grit. Ninja gave a student's perspective. She's taking half online classes. The challenge for her in online classes is that it's easier to get the information from the sources rather than simply learning material.

- c. **Treasurer's Report:** Nathan was in mid-flight. He gave a list. Or starting balance in July, 2025 was \$34,853.34. Our balance right now is \$45,637.64. Nathan wants to have a significant surplus in case of surprise bills.
 - i. **Award Amounts:** Directors: \$1500, Juan Lara, \$750, Outstanding, \$500, Outstanding, \$500 each.
- d. **Transfer Coordinators' Report:** Alannah reported that we have no new partners to announce. She anticipates no bad news. The transfer agreement guide has changed a bit. The contacts should be up to date. When we go in, we should be able to see the student application deadlines, though there probably won't be the deadline for directors. Many of these universities will have March as the deadline. Most of the elite institutions will want a Transfer Applicant List from us. The only time transfer institutions will see the Honors designation is when the students submit their applications. Schools may "spot-check" to make sure with directors that students are in the programs. Private universities usually won't ask for the same thing. Guck suggested that for Honors course in which Honors students are blended in with the regular students, there should be a clear "Honors" designation. Christina said we can survey which of our students have applied to elite institutions before sending in our transfer lists. Alannah reminded us that California state and UC institutions don't usually require our students to have finished the programs, just to be in good standing.
- e. **Secretary:** No report.

IV. Conference Chair Report: Emily reported that the conference is two weeks away, practically upon us. The abstract scoring is being finalized. Attendees must remember to bring water bottles. We won't provide water at the conference. We must encourage our students to go to the booths at the conference. She stressed a program that situates students to move forward in law. Erik stressed that this is important even for students not transferring to UCR. It's a place where they may see opportunities that exist at the institutions they go to. We will provide networking opportunities close to the student service booths. We will have fourteen booths. Christina Axtell said her school will provide awards for students going to the booths. Parking is free in lots 1 and 24 for people who are registered. We can send out the UCR parking app, Park Mobile. Joachin will post it shortly before the conference, trying to

ensure that attendees have parking spots and non-attendees don't freeload. Joachin will post news on a free parking lot they have. Buses have been instructed to park off-campus.

- i. **Conference Program:** We're aiming to get the program out next week. We'll send out a digital program and provide QR codes. We may have a print copy for Luddites at the registration table.
 - ii. **Conference Website:** No report.
 - iii. **Conference Posters:** Poster scoring should be done by the end of the week. 19 STEM and 23 Humanities, Social Sciences and Arts submission.
 - iv. **Conference Awards and Scholarships:** Christopher Sleeper has been solidified as our Directors Award Honoree. If we want to contribute, email Emily. Erik said we can get something involving American History.
 - v. **Conference Communications:** No report.
 - vi. **Editor's Report - Building Bridges Publication:** No report.
 - vii. **Moderators:** Carol has sent moderators the break-down of the day, the locations and times of events. Moderators should arrive by 7:15. They are open to volunteers and moderators coming almost at the last minute. She wants us to send our students' dietary restrictions. Jennifer suggested we should
- V. **NCHC Updates:** Erik reported that the window for presentation application for next year's conference is Sunday. He is on the Membership Committee. They want to increase value-added beyond the conference. This year's conference will be in New Orleans—then Atlanta, Chicago and then somewhere in the West. We should encourage students to submit to UReCA. Mt. San Jacinto had two students published last year. Kathryn asked about a session on how people may be involved in Honors after formal retirement. Erik said there will be something.
- VI. **BHC Updates:** Irena reported that presentation decisions will be made this week. Registration will be on the website soon. The website is <https://bayhonors.org/symposium/>
- VII. **HTCC Elections for 2026-2027 Leadership Positions:** We need to appoint new leadership positions. We will use more with the student representatives, putting them forward in the dialogue, both at the conference and going forward. Erik suggested that student representatives should know from September that they will be able to choose a role they want to play at the conference and a way they want to develop it. Joachin suggested a Zoom in our meetings in which students can report out. It could be at the 9:00 meeting.
- VIII. **Next meeting May 8th on Zoom, 12:00 p.m.**
- IX. **General Meeting Adjourned 12:15 with a 12:30 Walk-through of HTCC Conference Space.**