



UNIVERSITY PLANNING COMMITTEE

21 January 2025 | Seaver Board Room

Minutes

Attendees

Jay Brewster (Chair)
Cristel Russell
Paul Caron
Deborah Crown
Tanner Gardner
Nicolle Taylor
Matt Joyner
Farzin Madjidi

Lila Carlsen
Tim Perrin
Pete Peterson
Phil Phillips
Danny DeWalt
Jeffrey Rohde
Lauren Cosentino
Sharon Beard

Mark Roosa
Seung Lee
Lee Kats
Jaye Goosby Smith
Sean Burnett
Michael Feltner
Sara Jackson

Absent

Jim Gash
Greg Ramirez

Rick Cupp
Darren Good

Dayea Oh

Observers

Seta Khajarian, Nolan Gentile, Gabriella Yu, Carrie Hernandez

I. Call to Order, Devotion, and Review of Minutes

Provost Brewster called the meeting to order at 8:35 am and led the UPC in a devotional thought. The minutes from November were adopted and approved, pending an amendment of the PCHS data as presented to the committee.

II. Strategic Planning Review

Tim Perrin initiated a review of the "Ascend Together: 2030 Strategic Plan". As mandated by the UPC Charter, the strategic plan is monitored continually and undergoes major revisions at least every five years. The committee was prompted to consider how global and community changes over the last five years should influence the plan's evolution. A specific case study was introduced regarding the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to advance the goals of academic excellence and student transformation.

III. LA28 Olympics

Tim Perrin and Lila Carlsen presented updates from the LA28 Olympics Task Force. Pepperdine is exploring a significant partnership with the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, which includes a proposal to provide campus housing for support staff and other delegations from July 1 to early August 2028. Discussion focused on potential student benefits, such as internships, opportunities for alumni engagement, and community events. Emphasis was placed on the university's Olympic legacy and the opportunity to highlight Pepperdine on an international stage through this partnership with LA28.

IV. New Leadership: Office of Student Accessibility

The committee introduced Jessica Johnson Mills as the Senior Director of Accessibility. She was once a community therapist and a therapist. Her training began at Boston College with a BA in Psychology and a master's degree in mental health counseling and counseling psychology. The Office of Student Accessibility plays a critical role institutionally. Provost Brewster praised them for their hard work. She is a passionate new member of our community. Additionally, administrative discussions covered ongoing coordination with the Office of Research, Grants & Foundations, Advancement, and Integrated Marketing Communications (IMC) to support the university's expanding strategic initiatives.

V. RISE Institute Expansion

Vice Chancellor Connie Horton provided a comprehensive update on the expansion of the RISE (Resilience Informed Student Education) Program. Since its soft launch in 2019, RISE has integrated resilience education into the first-year student experience through Chapel groups, coaching, and faculty fellowships. The newly established RISE Institute (launched July 2025) is now expanding its reach to K-12 schools, churches, and corporate partners both locally and internationally, including a recent trip to schools in India.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. The next meeting of the University Planning Committee is scheduled for February 18th, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.