## 2025-2026

## **UTLA COMMITTEE HANDBOOK**



# GOVERANCE AND COMPLIANCE

## UTLA COMMITTEE HANDBOOK—2025-2026

### GENERAL CONTACT INFORMATION

3303 Wilshire Blvd., 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Los Angeles, CA 90010 Phone: 213-487-5560 Fax: 213-251-9891

There are approximately 30 Standing UTLA Committees covering the interests of members. This UTLA Committee Handbook explains how the committees are to operate based on the UTLA Constitution and how to follow set UTLA procedures. Please refer to this handbook throughout the year to ensure your committee is in compliance of the guidelines outlined in this handbook and the UTLA Constitution.

The constitutional requirements for standing committees are outlined in *Article VIII* of the UTLA Constitution.

A full, up-to-date list of all Standing Committees, Chairperson and contact information can be found at: https://utla.net/committees/

If there are areas in this handbook that have not been addressed and you feel would be helpful, please contact Gloria Martinez, UTLA Treasurer (<a href="mailto:gmartinez@utla.net">gmartinez@utla.net</a>) or Jennifer McAfee, UTLA Secretary (<a href="mailto:jennifer.mcafee@utla.net">jennifer.mcafee@utla.net</a>)

This handbook is designed to assist you as a committee chair throughout the year and easily provide you with access to important dates, forms and information.

#### WHAT IS A UTLA STANDING COMMITTEE?

A UTLA committee is a formalized, permanent committee organized around one of two areas:

- A specific category of teachers (i.e., Elementary, Special Education, Health and Human Services)
- A specific interest area of teachers (i.e., Women's Rights, Racial and Social Justice, Pre-retirement Issues)

Whereas these committees operate independently, and have their own specific agendas, they ALL represent UTLA, and must act in accordance with UTLA policy as dictated by its Constitution and decisions of the Board of Directors and House of Representatives. Committee meetings are open to all active UTLA and UTLA-R members. (UTLA Constitution *Article VIII Section 2.B*)

## **BY-LAWS/MISSION STATEMENTS**

All committees should have on record with the UTLA Secretary, some form of bylaws or mission statement that states the following:

- Purpose of the committee
- Officers of the committee
- When, where and how often the committee meets
- · Basic activities of the committee

This information is useful to share with members interested in the committee. It may be very extensive and detailed, or as short as a paragraph depending on the size and activities of the particular committee. There are not any specific requirements other than a statement of the basic information above.

An example of a By-Law/Mission Statement can be found in the Appendix section.

## CONSTIUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- Hold at least five regularly scheduled meetings during the year.
- Motions passed by the committee must have the maker's name and the seconder's name, the vote tally and an indication that quorum was present at the time of the vote included in the motion report.
- The quorum for any meeting shall be five members.
- Committees that do not have quorum cannot adopt motions or take official actions at the meeting.

## **ELECTIONS**

All committees are required to hold elections for the subsequent school year and submit the names of the new chairs. The new chairs for the **2025-2026** school year shall be elected by members of their respective committees at the first meeting of the committee each school year by submitting the attached Committee Election form. It is recommended that an announcement of the 2025-2026 election is made at the last committee meeting of the 2024-2025 school year. The date of elections should be publicized to your committee members at least one month in advance. All committee members who have attended *at least one meeting* prior to the election date are eligible to vote. Committees that do not report the election of a chair become defunct. For additional questions and guidance, refer to the Elections Committee. Committees cannot support or endorse any UTLA candidates for UTLA's internal elections.

### **END-OF-YEAR-REPORT**

In addition to election information and the subsequent year's budget request, every committee chair is required to turn in an end-of-the-year report which summarizes the committee's work for the previous year. The report should include the following information if not turned in previously:

- Copy of the agendas for each meeting held throughout the year
- Short summary of the committee's accomplishments for the year
- Copy of all sign-in sheets representing active attendance

Your end-of-the-year report for the 2024 – 2025 school year is due by **April 15, 2025**. For school year 2025–2026, it is due **April 15, 2026**. It should be sent to Jennifer McAfee, UTLA Secretary (<u>jennifer.mcafee@utla.net</u>). Tentative approval based on end of year meeting requirements outlined in the constitution and this handbook.

- 1) Five meetings per year
- 2) Election of Committee Chair
- 3) Reports

Failure to submit the end-of-the-year report and meet the requirements of this handbook and constitution may jeopardize funding for the following year.

## **COLLECTING AN EMAIL LIST**

UTLA does not provide e-mail addresses to committee chairs. However, you are welcome to create your own e-mail list of UTLA members who are interested in receiving information from your committee. While these may be useful for discussions, committee decisions should be public.

- Teachers should voluntarily supply you with their personal e-mail (i.e., do not simply add lists of teachers you may acquire)
- Your UTLA committee e-mail list should be kept private and only used for official UTLA committee business. Emails are not to be used for personal matters
- UTLA Committee email addresses are not to be used to endorse or support any UTLA candidate in internal elections and can result in an election challenge

## **MEETINGS**

Committees are required to meet at least five times during the school year. Attendance should reflect the active participation of the committee. The majority of these meetings are normally held at UTLA, usually on the Wednesday of the House of Representatives meetings. When meetings are held at the UTLA building, childcare and dinner are provided. RSVP is required for childcare with Dina Zubia at <a href="mailto:dina.zubia@utla.net">dina.zubia@utla.net</a> with 5 days advance notice. Meetings may be held at UTLA or virtually via Zoom (see form.)

Committees may meet on House of Representatives meeting night or Pace meeting night. A room will be reserved for each Committee on these nights before the meeting.

Meeting sign-in sheets, with member employee numbers, and copy of agenda are to be sent to Jennifer McAfee, UTLA Secretary. They can be given at the House of Representatives meetings or emailed to jennifer.mcafee@utla.net

If your meeting requires ASL interpreters, please complete and return the form on pg. 21 of this handbook.

## **PARKING**

Free validated parking is available to all committee members for meetings and committee events. Parking tickets can be validated at the UTLA office on the 10<sup>th</sup> floor (during business hours), or by using the validation machine in Room 835 any time.

## MULTI-LEVEL PARKING GARAGE PROCEDURES FOR DISABLED PARKING:

The height limitation for the vehicles entering the multi-level parking garage on Berendo St. is (6 feet 6 inches) and indicates above the parking gate entrance. Upon entering the multi-level parking garage, you will need to advise the Parking Manager that you need a DP parking space and have your place card and/ or DP license plate visible. The first floor of the garage has cones and signage indicating "reserved parking" for around 8 parking spaces. It is the Parking Manager discretion to assign those spaces and direct the DP parkers on where to park. In addition, there are also parking spaces indicating "30 minute parking", but those spaces will not be used for DP parkers unless the Parking Manager has made arrangements.

## **PUBLICITY**

Your committee events can be publicized on utla.net under the News & Events page and in the Talking Points calendar emailed weekly to UTLA Chapter Leaders (two times maximum). Please contact <a href="mailto:jennifer.mcafee@utla.net">jennifer.mcafee@utla.net</a> and <a href="mailto:jennifer.mcafee@utla.net">jennifer.mcaf

## STAFF PEOPLE—UTLA

Each committee is designated a staff person at UTLA to help out with questions and clerical procedures, if necessary. Contact Diana Darty's office at (213) 368-6251 or <a href="mailto:ddarty@utla.net">ddarty@utla.net</a> to determine who has been assigned to your committee.

Please remember—whereas these people have been assigned to help, they have many additional duties at UTLA. Please ask for assistance only as needed and with reasonable notice. They are not meant for basic clerical work that should be handled by members of your committee.

It is also important to provide adequate notice for any services that are not within regular office hours, preferably two months prior to the event. A number of major committee jobs have already been delegated (certain conferences and scholarship funds).

## **APPENDIX—FORMS**

The following forms are included for your use. You may copy them as needed:

FORM	SEND TO:	FORM IS DUE BY:
ASL	Rosa Beasley	AT LEAST 7 BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE EVENT
BY-LAWS/MISSION STATEMENT EXAMPLE	UTLA SECRETARY	IMMEDIATELY, IF ONE HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN SUBMITTED
BUDGET	UTLA TREASURER	March 24, 2025 For 2025 – 2026 budget March 23, 2026 For 2026-2027 budget
EXPENDITURE ORDER	UTLA TREASURER	ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE
EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT VOUCHER	UTLA TREASURER	WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE EXPENDITURE
ROOM RESERVATION	UTLA ROOM SCHEDULE SECRETARY	AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR TO EVENT
End of Year Report	UTLA Secretary	April 15, 2025 For 24-25 school yr. April 15, 2026 For 25-26 school yr.
Committee Chair Elections  Announce the 2025-2026 committee chair election at last committee meeting of the 2024-2025 school year.	UTLA Secretary	Sept 30, 2025 For 25-26 school yr. Sept 30, 2026 For 26-27 school yr.

# UTLA Standing Committee Chair Election Reporting Form 2025-2026

Name of the Committee: 2024-2025 Current Committee Chai			
2025-2026 Incoming Committee Chair:		Employee Number:	
Cell Phone: ()	email:		
Date Election was Held:/_		# of Mem	bers in Attendance
Names, employee numbers, and signatu	ures of at least thre	ee committee m	embers who witnessed the election
Name	Emp	loyee Number	Signature

Please return this form to Jennifer McAfee, UTLA Secretary

## **BY-LAWS—AN EXAMPLE:**

This format works best with large committees. Adapt the categories to your particular committee:

	BY-LAWS OF THE UTL Add	A opted	COMMITTEE
l.	PURPOSE/MISSION OF	THE COMMITTEE:	
II.	MEMBERSHIP OF THE	COMMITTEE:	
III.	MEETINGS AND PROCE	DURES OF THE COM	MMITTEE:
	a. REGULAR MEETING b. NOTICES OF MEETIN c. APPLICABLE RULES d. QUORUM	NGS (ROBERTS'?) ETINGS TINGS	
IV.	OFFICERS OF THE COM	MMITTEE AND THEIR	DUTIES
V.	STANDING SUB-COMMI	TTEES	
VI.	STEERING COMMITTEE		
This fo	ormat works best with sm	EMENT—AN EX all committees. Adap icular committee:	
	UTLA	COMMITTEE MISSIC	N STATEMENT
Purpose	of the Committee:		
Definition	n of the Committee:		

Committee Goals and Objectives:

Committee's role in supporting the aims of UTLA:

## UTLA ROOM REQUEST

Office: 213-368-6206 FAX: 213-368-6256 roomscheduling@utla.net

Requested by:			Date:	
NAME OF COMMIT	TEE/GROU	P:		
DATE REQUESTED:				
	(Use one form	for <u>each day</u> requested	- no multiple date listings)	!
START TIME:		END TIME:		
NUMBER OF PERSO	ONS ATTEN	DING MEETING:		
Contact Person:				
Contact Phone:				
Contact Email:				
Equipment Request:	TV			
Auditorium Request:	Microphone	Microphone and TV	Microphone and Zoom	Microphone, TV and Zoom
	e viewed on the T	V monitors. All presenta	tion links and/or attachment	s must be sent to
Room Assigned:				
Approved By:				

Please list or diagram below any special arrangements or other particular needs.

# BUDGET AND FINANCIAL COMPLIANCE

## BUDGET

A committee budget must be submitted yearly. Budgets are to further the purposes of your committee and support and abide by UTLA policies. Each committee is allocated a budget to cover basic needs for the year's activities, which includes outreach to members, facilitating training of members or increasing the capacity of members. For any questions about whether a request is within the purview of the Committee budget, please contact the UTLA Treasurer prior to the expenditure.

Your committee budget for school year **2025-2026** is due no later than **March 24, 2025**. Submit to Gloria Martinez, UTLA Treasurer (gmartinez@utla.net).

The Budget Committee will review your budget and either recommend its approval to the Board of Directors or will contact you with questions and/or need for revisions.

Throughout the year, committee chairs may request a report on year-to-date expenditures by contacting Gloria Martinez, UTLA Treasurer (<a href="mailto:gmartinez@utla.net">gmartinez@utla.net</a>). Requests for amendments to the budget must be submitted to the UTLA Treasurer.

A copy of the committee budget form can be found in the Appendix section. Also included is an instruction sheet, and forms for expenditure orders and expense reimbursement. Receipts must be attached with the purpose, names and date related to the expense.

Committees not submitting a budget will be allocated \$100 for general meeting costs only. Please make sure to submit your budget.

Lastly, failure to meet the constitutional requirements and the requirements of this Committee Handbook may jeopardize your budget approval for the 2026-2027 school year.

## **CONFERENCES**

There are two types of conferences in which UTLA committees are sometimes involved—in-house and outside.

Here is some basic information to assist you if your committee wishes to hold an in-house conference. Contact the UTLA Treasurer if you want to hold an in-house conference providing the date, goal, target audience and purpose for the conference at UTLA.

## **In House Conferences**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE CONFERENCES TAKE A LOT OF LOGISTICAL PLANNING AND SHOULD BE PLANNED WEEKS/MONTHS IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE SPACE AVAILABILITY AND OTHER RESOURCES.

- Scheduling—Reserve the auditorium and or meeting rooms well in advance by contacting UTLA Room Schedule Secretary. (See the section on "Meetings" for more detailed information).
- Publicity—Your committee events can be publicized on utla.net under the News & Events page and in the Talking Points calendar emailed weekly to UTLA Chapter Leaders (two times maximum). Please contact scarlett.ying@utla.net for submissions.
- Refreshments—There are a number of places to eat for "lunch on your own" within walking distance of UTLA. You can also have your food delivered to your meeting. (PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR ANNUAL BUDGET SHOULD REFLECT CONFERENCES WHEN SUBMITTED)
- Budget—Where possible, in-house conferences should be self-supporting. Your committee budget should contain any request for monies necessary for your activity. Therefore, all conferences should be planned during the previous school year. If this is not possible, or a financial emergency arises, contact the UTLA Treasurer immediately. If a committee wishes to cover the expense for an in-house conference the chair should reach out to the treasurer prior to making a purchase to ensure the cost is eligible for reimbursement.
- Committee budgets cannot be used pre-pay or "up-front" costs. Committees may seek reimbursement as outlined in the bullet point above.
- Co-sponsors—All conference co-sponsors must adhere to the principles and basic positions of UTLA. A certain amount of common sense needs to prevail here. Affiliated organizations such as LAUSD, NEA, California League of Middle Schools are obviously approved. However, if you want a group that holds specific potentially- controversial positions, you must get approval from the UTLA President, first. A suggestion: if there is any potential conflict, contact a UTLA officer first.

**Staff assistance**—A number of committees already have UTLA staff members assigned to their conferences and scholarship programs. A list of those currently assigned can be found in the Appendix. Committee events should utilize the support of committee member volunteers.

• Online Registration – Online conference registration set-up may be available. Contact the appropriate UTLA staff member listed on the Appendix at least twelve weeks in advance of the event for assistance.

Please note funds requested by the committee for attendance at outside conferences **must** be included and approved through the budgetary process. Committees must include the approved motion naming the conference, who will be in attendance and the vote must be submitted with the request for approval or reimbursement.

## **Outside Conferences**

A motion to attend conferences should be heard and voted upon by committee members and results should be reflected in notes. Please submit the motion and vote when requesting approval or reimbursements.

Attendance at outside conferences must support the mission of the UTLA Committee and UTLA. It will also need to include a process for reporting back to committee members and be part of the end of the year report.

Attendance at conferences that are not sponsored by UTLA must be PREAPPROVED. Participants must be an active UTLA member. Upon approval, information will be provided for making arrangements with the UTLA Travel Agency.

In order to ensure proper reimbursement, the **UTLA Travel Expense Reimbursement Form** must be submitted with itemized receipts **30 days** of the end of the month in which they were incurred. See instructions on the Reimbursement Form.

## **UTLA—Budget Request Form Instructions**

**Childcare:** When meetings are held at the UTLA building, childcare may be provided. Childcare expenses must be preauthorized by the UTLA Treasurer with licensing information provided to UTLA.

**Conference Attendance (Individual):** Conferences must be **PREAPPROVED** by the UTLA Treasurer. Travel such as airfare, hotel, car rental, etc. must be arranged through the UTLA Travel Agency. A motion must be submitted reflecting the name of the conference, who will be attending and the vote count.

**Committee led Conferences:** Conferences must be pre-approved and cost neutral. Conference costs are to be reimbursed through the fees paid by attendees. Extra revenue will be credited to the Committee.

**Copies:** Contact the committee UTLA staff with 5 business day advance notice.

**Food Costs:** The cost of food for meetings may not exceed \$15 per person with attendance verified by a sign-in sheet. Please use union vendors whenever possible. Please note that no food is necessary if meeting on HOR night, since dinner is provided.

**Release Days:** Requests for release days must be made to the UTLA Treasurer and must include approval by Committee Chair.

## **Prohibited Expenses**

- No UTLA funds can be used for any political campaign.
- Budgets may not be used to purchase equipment unless first authorized by the UTLA Treasurer. UTLA resources may be used upon request.
- Requests for donations to nonprofits, community organizations or political activities must go the House of Representatives for approval.
- Newsletters, unless approved by the Treasurer and the Budget Committee, are not an allowed cost.
- Committee budgets may not be used for gifts or purchases benefiting committee members.
- Scholarship donations are tax deductible but must be given through United Teachers Education Fund (UTEF) our nonprofit arm, not committee funds.
- Mileage reimbursement for committee activities is not allowed
- Budgets cannot be amended once approved by the Finance Committee
- Committee funds shall not be used to supplement the NEA/RA Conference and/or AFT/ CFT Conventions, including joining caucuses at these events.

#### PLEASE NOTE:

**Income generating activities:** Committee budgets may not be used for revenue generating endeavors. All purchases of items to be sold must be at cost. Items for sale must further the goals of the committee and promote UTLA policies. The cost of items purchased for resale must be approved by the UTLA Treasurer and Budget Committee

## **UTLA**

## Budget Request Form For the Fiscal Year Ending **August 31, 2026**

Please complete this form with your budget request by line item and return to Gloria Martinez, UTLA Treasurer (gmartinez@utla.net) by March 24, 2025. Where necessary for clarification of item requested, please attach a separate piece of paper with the detail information. Your budget will be reviewed by the Budget Committee. If more information is needed, you will be asked to meet with the Committee in early March, where a representative of your committee may present this budget. Please include any enrollment sheets you have not previously given to UTLA with your budget request form. If you have any questions, the Treasurer is more than happy to assist you and can be reached at 213-487-5560.

UTLA Committee Name:	
Committee Contact Person:	
Phone #E-mail	
Please indicate the amount and use of last year's buc	lget
Budget line items: (receipts required) Please be Sp	pecific as Possible:
Conferences-In State (Maximum of \$450) (Please identify what conferences and purpose)	\$
Conferences-Out of State (Maximum of \$900) (Please identify what conferences and purpose)	
Meeting Costs (Refer to page 14 for allowable expenses)	
Supplies	
Total Request	\$

## **UTLA Expense Reimbursement Voucher Instructions**

- All reimbursements must be received within 30 days. An additional period may be granted for extenuating circumstances with a letter of explanation attached to the claim. (This language is on the form)
- Reimbursement requests from previous years will not be accepted.
- Attach itemized receipts to the expense voucher. NO CHECK WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A RECEPT OR PURCHASE ORDER
- Meal purchases (outside of the House of Representatives meeting) must be within the \$15 per person limit with names on the back of the receipt or an attached sign in sheet.
- Please allow 2-4 weeks for the reimbursement
- All expenditures should be reflected on the Budget Request Form. Please contact the UTLA Treasurer for changes and preapproval of conference spending.
- Please contact the UTLA Treasurer for any questions.



Date Required	Date Requested
Name of Officer/Committee/Conference	
Person making request	
Payee	
Address	
Special Instructions	
Purpose of Expenditure	
Amount	Accounts to be charged to
_	ture must be approved below.
Please attach supportin	g documentation such as contracts, bills, etc.
Authorized/ Approved by	Date
	(Submitter or Manager)
Approved by	Date
(Treasurer or Ch	nief Financial Director)



## UTLA EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT FORM

Name of Officer, Committee Chair, A	rea Chair, or Director who authorized:		
Name of Area/ Committee (if applical	ble)		
Name of person completing form			
Phone Number	E-mail		
Check to be made payable to: (Please u	se separate form for each check to be writ	iten)	
Payee			
Address			
City	State	Zip	
Email	Co	ell phone	
the \$15 per person limit with names of out of town conference expenses.	to a blank 8 ½ x 11 paper) and itemize on the back of the receipt or you may at VITHOUT RECEIPT(S). IF SUBMITED BY E	tach a sign in sheet. See the	e handbook regarding
	<u>Purpose</u>		Amount
a.			
b			
c.			
d.			
	TOTAL REIMBURSEMENT	REQUESTED	
extenuating circumstances with a let	nts must be received within <u>30 days</u> . An ter of explanation attached to the claim		nay be granted for
UTLA USE ONLY			
Submitted by:		Date	
Approved by:		Date	
Account No.	Check Number		

## VIRTUAL MEETING REQUEST FORM

Name of Requestor/Host:
Committee Name:
Requestor's Email and Telephone Number:
Date of Meeting: Time of Meeting:
Projected Meeting Duration: Expected # of Participants:
Security
Would you like to enable a password for your meeting? Yes No
Would you like to have the participants "wait" for admission to your meeting?
Yes No
Will this meeting be open to non-UTLA members? Yes No
All requests must be submitted a minimum of 24 hours in advance of the requested date and time. Confirmations will be sent by email. That confirmation email will contain all of the pertinent information regarding your meeting. Please treat that information as confidential. That information is valid only for the meeting requested and should not be shared with others outside of your meeting. In an effort to secure the meeting for the intended purpose, please review the guidelines and training that accompanies your confirmation.
Please return completed form to roomscheduling@utla.net



#### REQUEST FOR DEAF INTERPRETIVE SERVICES

#### UTLA Policy for Hiring Deaf Interpretation

- We ask that requests are made 7 business days in advance at the request of our provider. For exceptions, please contact Gloria Martinez, UTLA Treasurer at <u>qmartinez@utla.net</u> or (213) 368-6237.
- 2. Cancellations must be received within 72 hours of the event.

Return completed form to Rosa Beasley at rbeasley@utla.net.