

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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VIDEOCONFERENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

Wednesday, February 9, 2022
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

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I. Roll Call

2021-22 Assembly Roll Call February 9, 2022

President of the University:

Michael Drake

Academic Council Members:

Robert Horwitz, Chair
Susan Cochran, Vice Chair
Ronald Cohen, Chair, UCB
Richard Tucker, Chair, UCD
Joanna Ho, Chair, UCI
Jody Kreiman, UCLA Chair
LeRoy Westerling, Chair, UCM
Jason Stajich, Chair, UCR
Tara Javidi, Chair, UCSD
Steven Cheung, Chair, UCSF
Susannah Scott, Chair, UCSB
David Brundage, Chair, UCSC
Madeleine Sorapure, Chair, BOARS
Andrea Kasko, CCGA Chair
Daniel Widener, Chair, UCAADE
John Kuriyan, Chair, UCAP
Mary Lynch, Chair, UCEP
Jill Hollenbach, Chair, UCFW
Karen Bales, Chair, UCORP
Kathleen McGarry, Chair, UCPB

Berkeley (5)

Emily Ozer
Nathan Sayre
Martha Olney
Rosemary Joyce
Dean Toste

Davis (6)

Javier Arsuaga
Joe Chen
Yufang Jin
Hans-Georg Mueller
Robert Powell
Judith Van de Water

Irvine (4)

Elliott Currie
Michael Cooper
Naomi Morrisette
Bonnie Ruberg

Los Angeles (8)

Carol Bakhos
Hiram Beltran-Sanchez
Nicholas Brecha
Patricia Ganz
William Hsu
Ann Karagozian
Eleanor Kaufman
Shane White

Merced (1)

Justin Yeakel

Riverside (2)

Peter Chung
David Biggs

San Diego (5)

Mariana Cherner
Douglass Forbes
Paoloa Cessi
Virginia de Sa
Kamau Kenyatta

San Francisco (4)

Stella Bialous
Dyche Mullins
Jae-Woo Lee
Pamela Den Besten

Santa Barbara (3)

Cynthia Kaplan
Chuck Akemann
Elizabeth Perez

Santa Cruz (2)

Patricia Gallagher
Susan Strome

Secretary/Parliamentarian

Andrew Dickson

VIDEOCONFERENCE MEETING OF ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

December 8, 2021

MINUTES OF MEETING

I. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Pursuant to the call, the Assembly of the Academic Senate met on Wednesday, December 8, 2021. Academic Senate Chair Robert Horwitz presided and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Senate Director Hilary Baxter called the roll of Assembly members and confirmed a quorum. Attendance is listed in Appendix A of these minutes.

II. MINUTES

ACTION: The Assembly approved the minutes of June 9, 2021.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENATE LEADERSHIP

- **Robert Horwitz, Chair**
- **Susan Cochran, Vice Chair**

Labor Negotiations: The University has reached a five-year contract agreement with the UC-AFT, the union representing Unit 18 Lecturers. The UC-AFT canceled a planned strike and its members are expected to ratify the agreement. The University is also negotiating the membership of a new Graduate Student Researcher bargaining unit. UC wants the unit to include students who are UC employees paid through university research funds and grants, but exclude students who are not UC employees and receive research funding in the form of fellowships. The issue is likely to be discussed at a Public Employees Relations Board hearing in February.

UC Budget: The 2022-23 UC budget proposal asks the State to make substantial new investments in the University’s core operations, capital projects, and deferred maintenance. The budget includes a 4% across the board increase to faculty salaries and an additional 1.5% to address salary equity gaps.

UCRP: The Regents approved a reduction in the UCRP employer contribution rate from 15% to 14% with the 1% balance addressed through additional STIP borrowing. The change will help campuses avoid \$140 million in costs in each of the next two years. A sunset clause automatically restores the contribution to 15% in two years unless the Regents act.

Climate Crisis: Several campus Senates have new sustainability committees that are exploring ways to reduce campus carbon emissions and incorporate climate issues into the curriculum. The systemwide Senate’s new Climate Crisis Task Force is also drafting a Memorial to the UC Regents on the topic of the climate crisis. The Task force plans to ask the Academic Council to recommend to the Assembly that it initiate a systemwide faculty ballot on the Memorial.

Mitigating COVID Impacts: Provost Brown has convened a joint working group to respond to Academic Council’s January 2021 recommendations for mitigating COVID-19 impacts on faculty. The working group’s preliminary report focuses three high priority recommendations: 1) adjust expectations for promotions and merit advances to conform to “Achievement Relative to Opportunity” principles; 2) create funding mechanisms to help faculty recover research costs; and

3) fund approved faculty teaching duty modifications. President Drake has agreed to ask campus chancellors to begin implementing and socializing the recommendations across CAPs, department chairs, and deans.

Entrepreneurship: In May, the Regents Committee on Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship recommended devolving patent authority from UCOP to the campuses to facilitate more activity and funding. The Committee also recommended revising the Academic Personnel Manual promotion and tenure guidelines to include specific wording for consideration of innovation and entrepreneurship activities. Senate leadership have asked UCORP and UCAP to consider whether and how such activities pertain to the research, teaching, and service elements of the merit and promotion process.

Academic Integrity: Faculty are concerned that several student tutoring websites that gained popularity during the pandemic facilitate academic dishonesty and the illegal posting of faculty intellectual property. The Senate has asked UC Legal to consider an institutional response, which may include automated take-down requests, and to engage other universities and accrediting agencies in a broader campaign against the websites.

Teaching Modalities: The Academic Council is discussing how to address uneven policies and practices across campuses for determining teaching modalities and responding to student/instructor requests for remote teaching accommodation. Council is gathering information and hopes to produce a set of guidelines that supports appropriate flexibility for faculty with medical and dependent care needs

Transfer Admissions: The Intersegmental Committee on Academic Senates will devote significant time this year to the implementation of Assembly Bill 928, a new law that creates a singular transfer pathway from the Community Colleges to UC and CSU through the CSU Associate Degree for Transfer.

Discussion:

- Assembly members noted that the new Unit 18 Lecturer contract is fair and improves pay and job security, but they also observed that the contract negotiations had included a request for Senate membership, which could affect the operation of shared governance. Chair Horwitz noted that the systemwide Senate is assembling a Task Force to study issues and concerns affecting the morale of clinical and other non-Senate Health Sciences faculty, some of whom may have been placed in the wrong job series. Assembly members also noted that graduate students can transition in and out of different roles, and their distinctive role as researchers can be particularly complex, nebulous, and prone to change.
- Members noted that in considering a Memorial to the Regents on the climate crisis, the Senate should understand that converting campus power plants away from natural gas to electric will require expensive retrofitting, and should weigh this priority against other important and competing priorities. Chair Horwitz observed that Senate memorials focus institutional attention on a problem and have an aspirational quality. He also noted that the new federal infrastructure bill could be a potential source of funding for electrification.
- Individual Assembly members noted that embedding specific forms of research activity in the APM, or giving faculty “extra credit” for patent and start-up activity could suggest that such activities are expected. UCAP Chair Kuriyan noted that UCAP will be examining the issue impartially and without presupposition.

- Assembly members noted that the COVID Impacts Report had been distributed unevenly and suggested that campus Senate offices distribute the report through their all-faculty listservs.
- Members noted that the roles of disability student offices in student requests for remote learning accommodation differ across campuses. Some offices primarily advocate for students; others have a more implementation-focused role. CCGA Chair Kasko noted that CCGA is crafting recommendations to campuses about responding to TA requests for remote teaching accommodation for non-medical reasons.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENIOR UNIVERSITY LEADERS

- **Michael Drake, President**
- **Michael T. Brown, Provost and Executive Vice President**

Faculty Salary Plan: Provost Brown noted that he, President Drake, and the other UC senior leaders are committed to increasing the competitiveness of UC faculty salaries. Progress has been made, but there is more to do to make the salary scales more useful and reflective of the market. The 2022-23 UC budget plan includes a 4% across-the-board adjustment to the salary scales, an additional 1.5% for equity adjustments, and funding for regular merit increases.

NAGPRA: The University is finalizing a revised Presidential Policy on Native American Cultural Affiliation and Repatriation. The policy updates UC’s compliance with the federal and state versions of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and strengthens UC policy and practices related to the curation, repatriation, and disposition of Native American remains and cultural items in the University’s custody.

Systemwide Programs: Provost Brown noted that the pandemic had affected systemwide experiential academic programs like the UC Center in Sacramento (UCCS), the UC Center in Washington (UCDC), and the UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP). UCOP is funding the programs to help return them to full vitality, including new housing and instructional facilities for the UCCS. UCOP is also investing more resources in the California Digital Library.

Union Negotiations: President Drake said the agreement between UC and the UC-AFT is strong, fair, and supports lecturers and students. The University is working through some important language regarding the membership of a Graduate Student Researchers bargaining unit. The University believes it would be inappropriate for the unit to include individuals doing research who are not compensated UC employees.

COVID: The University is monitoring new variants and expects the pandemic to continue changing. Hospitalizations and severe cases have been increasing at relatively modest rates. UC campuses have low case rates and high rates of vaccination and masking, making them safer than surrounding communities. The University recommends booster shots for all students, faculty and staff.

Community Safety Plan: Faculty are serving on two systemwide campus safety working groups. The first is focused on mechanisms for collecting campus safety data, and the second on demilitarized alternatives for police vehicles, uniforms, and equipment. The University has employed a search firm to recruit a systemwide director for the Community Safety Plan.

Discussion:

- Assembly members thanked senior managers for their commitment to improving faculty salaries, encouraged them to focus on the published salary scales as an effective way to “raise

all boats,” and asked how UC would account for current inflationary conditions in the 2022-23 salary plan.

- Assembly members noted that faculty are experiencing burn-out and low morale; the University should consider providing an additional sabbatical credit to recognize the extra teaching and service performed during the pandemic and the effect of the shutdown on research.
- An Assembly member observed that the U.S. Surgeon General recently issued an advisory about the nation’s youth mental health crisis. Another member asked about the status of Academic Council’s recommendations for making UC a more supportive environment for students with atypical neurological functioning.
- An Assembly member asked for clarification about which graduate students UC believes should and should not be included in the GSR union. Finally, they asked President Drake to comment on challenges the University should be preparing for in the coming years.

- President Drake said UC wants the 2022-23 salary plan to be as fair as possible to all employees and acknowledged the challenge of inflation. He said the mental health problem in society extends beyond young people, and that the University was increasing funding for student mental health services.
- He said UC wants the GSR union discussions to maintain a clear distinction between graduate students in an academic program with a research component and students who perform work like a UC employee. The key distinction is what the student is doing, not the source of the funding. A graduate student doing independent research should not be in the union if they are not performing a compensated service for the University.
- He noted that upcoming challenges include maintaining a positive relationship with the State; increasing funding to a level that sustains excellence; maintaining labor peace; adjusting the UC educational model to expand capacity; defining an appropriate role for online education; and determining the post-pandemic “future of work” for administrative staff.

- Provost Brown promised to forward a formal response detailing UC’s multi-pronged approach to the recommendations on neurodiverse students. He said he appreciates faculty efforts during the pandemic, and while he does not support the idea of an additional sabbatical credit, he is thinking about new mechanisms to support faculty.

V. SPECIAL ORDERS

- A. Consent Calendar [None]
- B. Annual Reports [2020-21]

VI. UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE REPORT [None]

VII. NEW BUSINESS [None]

VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS [None]

IX. REPORTS ON SPECIAL COMMITTEES [None]

X. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS [None]

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS [None]

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 pm

Minutes Prepared by: Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director, Academic Senate

Attest: Robert Horwitz, Academic Senate Chair

Attachments: Appendix A – Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of December 8, 2021

Appendix A – 2021-2022 Assembly Attendance Record, Meeting of December 8, 2021

President of the University:

Michael Drake

Academic Council Members:

Robert Horwitz, Chair
Susan Cochran, Vice Chair
Ronald Cohen, Chair, UCB
Richard Tucker, Chair, UCD
Joanna Ho, Chair, UCI
Jody Kreiman, UCLA Chair
LeRoy Westerling, Chair, UCM
Jason Stajich, Chair, UCR
Nancy Postero, Vice Chair, UCSD (alt for
Tara Javidi, Chair, UCSD)
Steven Cheung, Chair, UCSF
Susannah Scott, Chair, UCSB
David Brundage, Chair, UCSC
Madeleine Sorapure, Chair, BOARS
Andrea Kasko, CCGA Chair
Daniel Widener, Chair, UCAADE (absent)
John Kuriyan, Chair, UCAP
Mary Lynch, Chair, UCEP
Jill Hollenbach, Chair, UCFW
Karen Bales, Chair, UCORP
Kathleen McGarry, Chair, UCPB

Berkeley (5)

Emily Ozer (absent)
Nathan Sayre
Martha Olney
Rosemary Joyce
Dean Toste

Davis (6)

Javier Arsuaga
Joe Chen (absent)
Yufang Jin (absent)
Hans-Georg Mueller
Robert Powell (absent)
TBD (1) (absent)

Irvine (4)

Elliott Currie
Michael Cooper
Naomi Morrisette
Bonnie Ruberg

Los Angeles (8)

Carol Bakhos
Hiram Beltran-Sanchez
Nicholas Brecha
Patricia Ganz
William Hsu
Ann Karagozian (absent)
Eleanor Kaufman
Shane White

Merced (1)

Justin Yeakel

Riverside (2)

Peter Chung
David Biggs

San Diego (5)

Mariana Cherner
Douglass Forbes
Paoloa Cessi
Virginia de Sa
Kamau Kenyatta (absent)

San Francisco (4)

Stella Bialous
Dyche Mullins
Jae-Woo Lee
Janice Tosh (alt for Pamela Den Besten)

Santa Barbara (3)

Cynthia Kaplan
Chuck Akemann (absent)
Elizabeth Perez

Santa Cruz (2)

Patricia Gallagher
Susan Strome

Secretary/Parliamentarian

Andrew Dickson

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIR

- Robert Horwitz

IV. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic Council

- Robert Horwitz, Chair Academic Council

1. Proposed Revision to Senate Regulation 478 [ACTION]

Background and Justification: At its January 2022 meeting, following two systemwide Senate reviews, in [fall 2021](#) and [winter 2021](#), the Academic Council approved revisions to Senate Regulation 478. The revision was proposed by the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS). It creates Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) Area 7 – Ethnic Studies, an additional IGETC subject area that prospective California Community College (CCC) transfers can fulfill by completing an approved ethnic studies course. The revision also aligns UC with new state legislation requiring the California State University to include an Ethnic Studies course in their general education curriculum for a baccalaureate degree. UCR&J found that the proposed changes are consistent with the Bylaws and Regulations of the Academic Senate.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approve the proposed amendments to SR 478.

Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools
Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 478 with Changes Tracked
(additions underlined; deletions noted by strikethrough):

478. Applicants for admission to the University by transfer can fulfill the lower division Breadth and General Education (B/GE) requirements by completion of the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) or by fulfilling the specific requirements of the college or school to which the student will apply. The IGETC is incorporated into the Associate Degrees for Transfer specified in Regulation 476.C.2 and is consistent with the transfer pathway specified in Regulation 476.C.3. (En 5 May 88) (Am 3 May 90) (Am 17 June 2009) (Am June 2013)

A. IGETC Course and Unit Requirements (Am June 2013)

All courses used in satisfying IGETC must be accepted for baccalaureate credit at the University, and be of at least 3 semester units or 4 quarter units. The laboratory portion of science courses must be of at least 1 unit. Quarter courses worth 3 units may be used only in the areas of English Composition and Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning when at least two such courses are part of a sequence. All courses that are part of such a sequence must be completed to satisfy IGETC.

B. IGETC Subject Requirements (Am June 2013)

The minimum number of courses and units in each of the following ~~six~~ seven subject areas constitute the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum:

1. English Composition. 2 courses: 6 semester units, 8 quarter units. One course must be in English Composition. The second course may also be in English Composition, or in Critical Thinking and Composition. These courses must have English 1A or its equivalent as a prerequisite. Courses designed exclusively for the satisfaction of remedial composition cannot be counted toward fulfillment of the English Composition requirement.
2. Mathematical Concepts and Quantitative Reasoning. 1 course: 3 semester units, 4 quarter units. This course should be in mathematics or statistics, with the exception that courses in the application of statistics to specific disciplines may not be used to fulfill this requirement.

3. Arts and Humanities. 3 courses: 9 semester units, 12 quarter units. At least one of the courses must be completed in the Arts and at least one of the courses must be completed in the Humanities. Courses that are primarily performance or studio art courses cannot be used to fulfill this requirement.
4. Social and Behavioral Sciences. ~~3~~ 2 courses: ~~9~~ 6 semester units, ~~12~~ 8 quarter units. Courses must be from **at least** two different disciplines.
5. Physical and Biological Sciences. 2 courses: 7 semester units, 9 quarter units. One course must be in a physical science, the other in a biological science, and at least one must include a laboratory.
6. Language Other Than English. Proficiency. This requirement may be fulfilled by completion of two years of a foreign language in high school with a grade of C or better or by equivalent proficiency demonstrated in college courses.
- 6.7. Ethnic Studies. 1 course: 3 semester units, 4 quarter units. This course should be in ethnic studies or in a similar field if the course is cross-listed with ethnic studies.

C. Scholarship Requirements (En 12 June 2013)

Only courses in which a grade of C or better has been attained can be used for fulfillment of IGETC. Credit by external exams may satisfy portions of IGETC pattern of courses upon approval of the Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools.

D. University Policy for the IGETC (Am 3 May 90) (Am 25 Feb 99) (Am 11 May 2005) (Am June 2013)

1. Students must have their coursework ~~fulfilling~~ fulfilling IGETC certified by the last California Community College they attended for a regular term prior to transfer.
2. If the lower division B/GE requirements are not fully satisfied prior to transfer, the student will be subject to the regulations regarding B/GE lower division requirements of the school or college of the campus to which the student transfers, with the following two exceptions.
 - a. A transfer student accepted into a college or school that recognizes IGETC as satisfying the B/GE requirements may complete a maximum of two courses of IGETC pattern after transfer (i.e., "Partial IGETC Certification") if all other conditions in Section 478.B are met. Neither of the courses to be completed after transfer may be in English Composition, Critical Thinking, or Mathematics/Quantitative Reasoning (IGETC Areas 1 & 2).
 - b. A transfer student intending to major in science, engineering, or mathematics in a college or school that recognizes IGETC as satisfying the B/GE requirements may complete up to three courses after transfer. The courses to be completed after transfer may consist of at most one in each of Area 3 - Arts & Humanities, Area 4 - Social & Behavioral Science, and Area 6 - Language Other than English.
3. A student who has been approved to complete the IGETC after transfer may take a certified IGETC course in the areas remaining to be completed at any California Community College subject to the UC campus rules regarding concurrent enrollment or, at the option of the UC campus, may take approved substitute courses at that UC campus.
4. The IGETC must be completed within one academic year (two semesters or three quarters plus any summer that might intervene) of the student's transfer to UC.
5. Consistent with SR 414, each college or school retains the right to accept or not accept IGETC as satisfactory completion of its lower division B/GE requirements.

- V. **UNIVERSITY AND FACULTY WELFARE REPORT**
- **Jill Hollenbach, Chair, University Committee on Faculty Welfare**

- VI. **ANNOUNCEMENTS BY SENIOR UNIVERSITY LEADERS (11:00 A.M.)**
- **Michael Drake, President**
 - **Michael T. Brown, Provost and Executive Vice President**
 - **Nathan Brostrom, Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer**

VII. **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (12:00 P.M.)**

- A. **Academic Council**
- **Robert Horwitz, Chair Academic Council**

2. **Proposed Memorial to the Regents [ACTION]**

At its December 15, 2021 meeting, the Academic Council voted to recommend to the Assembly of the Academic Senate that it approve, and, in accordance with Senate Bylaw 90, initiate a ballot on the following proposed Memorial to the UC Board of Regents. In accordance with section B, statements for and against the Memorial will be submitted to the Assembly at least seven days prior to the meeting. Those statements are included in this agenda packet. The proposed Memorial reads as follows: “The University of California Academic Senate petitions the Regents for investments in UC’s infrastructure that will reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion to 5% of current levels by 2030.”

Memorials to the Regents on matters of universitywide concern may be initiated by Assembly. Bylaw 90.E specifies that Memorials that have been approved by the Assembly shall, within sixty calendar days of approval, be submitted by the Secretary/Parliamentarian of the Senate to an electronic ballot of all voting members of the Senate. If a majority of the voting members approve of the proposed Memorial, the Assembly will forward it to the President for transmission to the Regents, as provided for in [Regents Bylaw 40.1](#).

ACTION REQUESTED: In accordance with Senate Bylaw 90, approve initiating a ballot to Senate Faculty on the proposed Memorial to the Regents.

MEMORIAL TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The University of California Academic Senate petitions the Regents for investments in UC’s infrastructure that will reduce on-campus fossil fuel combustion to 5% of current levels by 2030.

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEMORIAL TO THE REGENTS

The climate crisis is an existential threat to human civilization and our biosphere that requires an immediate response. One hundred ninety five countries approved the 2018 report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which urged a 50% reduction in emissions from 2010 levels by 2030.¹ California in 2017 passed Senate Bill 100, requiring the state to reduce 1990-level emissions by 40% by 2030.² The University of California responded to the crisis by announcing a Carbon Neutrality Initiative (CNI) in 2013.³ It also

¹ <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>

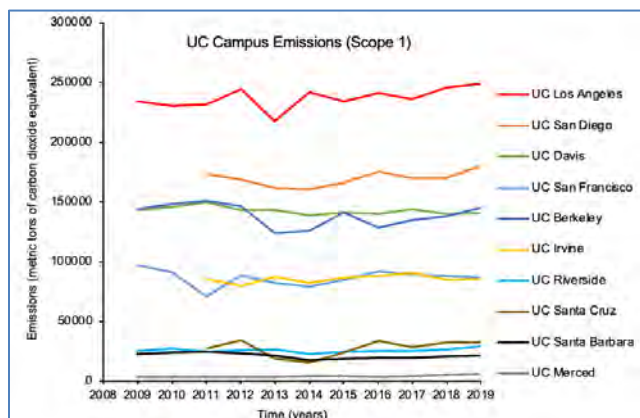
² https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB32

³ <https://ucop.edu/carbon-neutrality-initiative/index.html>

declared a Climate Emergency in 2019.⁴ UC scientists are leading research and scholarship about the crisis and how to respond.⁵

However, the University's response to the crisis has been inadequate.

- The Carbon Neutrality Initiative does not require campuses to cut Scope 1 emissions (CO₂ from burning fossil fuels on campus cogeneration plants primarily for electricity generation and heating or cooling).
- UC emissions, which have barely changed since 2013, are increasing for some campuses, and now exceed 1 million tons per year systemwide.⁶ (See figure below)
- California's electrical grid is rapidly becoming 100% renewable under SB 100, yet only about one-third of UC's electricity comes from renewable sources.⁷
- The Carbon Neutrality Initiative focuses on purchasing carbon offsets, but the emerging global consensus is that offsets should not be a strategy to reduce emissions. Effectiveness of the offset approach is undercut by concerns about credibility, additionally (that is, the ability to establish that the offset project wouldn't have happened without UC's purchase) and verifiability. Offsets also have a reputation as a dodge by which an institution pays to avoid having to reduce its own fossil fuel consumption.⁸
- UC policy also includes higher targets for directed biogas (i.e. we continue to burn methane on the campuses and buy credits for biomethane capture in other states). Apart from the ethical problem, this approach is riddled with problems including a lack of scalability.⁹
- UC's cogeneration plants are the largest source of emissions at UC campuses. They burn fracked methane, which contributes to pollution and environmental injustice across the state, including in the Central Valley where many of our students' families live. In buying fracked methane, UC also sustains the economic and political power of fossil gas companies and utilities that oppose a renewable energy transition.



The only way to reduce UC's carbon emissions is to stop burning fossil fuels, electrify campus operations, and purchase or generate renewable electricity. The Memorial asks the University to reduce emissions to 5% of current levels by 2030—a clear and appropriately aggressive target for eliminating campus use of fossil fuels. In doing so, the Memorial increases accountability around already established sustainability goals. The goal of a 95 percent reduction of fossil fuel combustion by 2030 is technically feasible. UC has many options available to source clean electricity, including from purchases of

renewable electricity through the grid and installing more on-site solar facilities.

The state is looking to UC for scientific and technological leadership on climate and sustainability issues. As the world's premier public university system, UC has a responsibility to model solutions and technologies that inspire local and global action. Other universities, including Stanford, have already retired their fossil fuel plants and transitioned to electric.

Inaction carries enormous economic, health, equity, environmental, and reputational costs, while aggressive action will gain UC co-benefits in terms of education, research, and reputation. UC has an opportunity to

⁴ <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/university-california-declares-climate-emergency>

⁵ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-019-1364-3>

⁶ <https://electrifyuc.org/data/>

⁷ https://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/sites/default/files/2020-02/UC_TomKat_Replacing_Natural_Gas_Report_2018.pdf

⁸ <https://www.vox.com/2020/2/27/20994118/carbon-offset-climate-change-net-zero-neutral-emissions>

⁹ <https://www.nceas.ucsb.edu/tomkat-natural-gas-replacement-strategies>

leverage its leadership and expertise toward greater public support and funding around these goals. The current state budget surplus includes opportunities for funding energy efficiency projects that the Regents can allocate to electrifying campuses.

ARGUMENT AGAINST MEMORIAL TO THE REGENTS

The climate crisis is real. There is no doubt that California and all businesses and institutions that operate within it, including the University of California, must do their part to accelerate our transition to a carbon-neutral future. UC has, and will continue, to play a central role in addressing the climate crisis, through its core missions of research, teaching, and service. UC is striving to reduce its own campus emissions from electricity and heating use, from food production and waste, from the vehicles it operates, and by all who drive to and from the campuses. The faculty need to support and promote these changes, which will likely involve an eventual electrification of many campus operations.

The questions we must consider are: whether this Memorial to the Regents advances this outcome in a meaningful rather than a mostly symbolic way, and whether it does so without causing lasting damage to the University's core mission.

We raise two arguments for your consideration. First, the Memorial lacks a sense of balance. It places a premium on immediate capital investment in new physical plant operations that are CO₂-free, without considering the impact this would have on other desperately needed capital investments. Second, it imposes systemwide action by the Regents for all campuses, even though the infrastructure needs across campuses vary and might be better served by allowing each to work towards the goal of net zero carbon emissions using local best practices.

As to the first argument, in 2006, the State stopped its direct support of the University's capital needs through general obligation bonds; infrastructure projects are now financed mostly by campus-level borrowing. In 2021-22, a large budget surplus resulted in the state providing UC with an allocation of one-time funding of \$295 million. Given current economic conditions, the University may receive a similar allocation next year. But these amounts are dwarfed by the University's capital needs for deferred maintenance, estimated at \$13 billion through 2026-27 with an additional \$11 billion needed for seismic safety. The estimated cost to reduce the Scope I and II contributions to campus fossil fuel combustion to 5% of current levels by 2030 systemwide, by starting to replace all of our co-gen plants immediately, is more than \$5 billion. Contrast this with Stanford's electrification project. That project reduced CO₂ emissions by 68% (not the 95% requested by this memorial) at an initial cost of \$485 million and an additional \$85 million when it became clear the project did not provide adequate cooling during heatwaves that are part of the new climate normal in the South Bay. The proposed Memorial calls for many projects this size or larger if we are to reduce UC's carbon emissions by 95%. This will inevitably mean much less investment over the next decade to repair and maintain the buildings we desperately need to support our core missions, let alone build new buildings to accommodate our President's commitment to access for an additional 20,000 students by 2030.

Second, while collectively each campus has a moral obligation to prioritize replacing its most obsolete energy infrastructure components with climate resilient and low- or zero-emission systems, on some campuses this may involve retiring aging energy systems immediately; on others, it might entail building more energy-efficient classroom buildings or laboratories now and replacing energy systems at a later date. This Memorial does not address the need for local trade-offs. Conversion of serviceable and highly efficient university infrastructure with a long useful lifespan is wasteful and will lead to stranded investments in existing electricity and heating facilities. It may not be the best use of resources within our campuses: we may achieve emissions gains in one campus sector, at the expense of higher than needed energy consumption a different sector. In addition, it may not be the best use of State resources. For example, the State may deem that mitigating the climate crisis would be better achieved by investment in projects to

replace even less efficient infrastructure outside of the University—for the UC to insist that its own goals take precedence would be irresponsible. A staged approach based on local campus decision-making will lead to the most efficient use of resources to achieve the greatest enhancement in UC's mission. Replacing the most obsolete campus systems first will also allow UC to learn by doing, maximizing its use of capital while providing the maximum emission reduction per dollar. We urge the faculty to reject this Memorial in favor of a strategic approach that incentivizes the best campus-based decisions.

- VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS [NONE]**
- IX. REPORTS ON SPECIAL COMMITTEES [NONE]**
- X. PETITIONS OF STUDENTS [NONE]**
- XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS [NONE]**
- XII. NEW BUSINESS**