



University Committee on Research Policy
Monday, June 9, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

I. Announcements, updates, approval of minutes

- Action: UCORP's May 12th meeting minutes were approved.
- Announcements & updates
 - Chair Susanne Nicholas provided a brief update on the recent Academic Council meeting, including her presentation of the five-year reviews of the UC Observatories and Bioengineering Institute of California (BIC). Academic Council agreed with the review groups' recommendations, including the 2-year probationary period for BIC.
 - Chair Nicholas provided a recap of UCORP's main discussions and work over the year.
 - Stephanie Malia Hom reported on the last ACSCOLI meeting. The labs are working to adjust to the current federal climate, including putting an emphasis on efficiency. The AI Science at Scale pilot funded three big multi-year projects in partnership with the UC-managed national labs.¹
 - Elina Zuniga provided a brief update on the faculty advisory committee for graduate student education and employment. A key question continues to be defining student vs employee. There will be a faculty member on the negotiating team.
 - Chair Nicholas mentioned an initial report from the Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptations to Disruptions (UCAD), which includes recommendations for supporting researchers and innovative research infrastructure models, among others.

II. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Research and Innovation

• ***Office of Research Policy Analysis and Coordination (RPAC)***

The group discussed the speculation of a California funding ban, which had been reported on CNN, and the uncertain budget future for UC and for academic research.

Regarding appeals for grant recissions, other than one large NIH grant that was reinstated at UC Davis, all other appeals have been rejected. Several hundred grants have been terminated across the UC system, some in the middle of the award term.

The NIH rescinded² a previous notice of a condition for award draw-downs that required certification that the university was not engaged in any DEI activity as defined by the federal government. Each campus was to make their own decision about certification. There is speculation that a new notice will be issued.

¹ <https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/uc-awards-18-million-scale-ambition-and-impact-ai-science>

² <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-25-124.html>

RPAC personnel clarified that the university enacted its policy on Dual Use Research of Concern (DURC) and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential (PEPP)³, even though the federal government has now stated that it will revise or replace the 2024 U.S. policy.

- **UC Research Initiatives**

Despite declining federal and state funding for research programs, there may be state funding available for climate-related research.

Chair Nicholas asked about an idea from the administration for consolidating core labs. This is still in an exploratory phase.

III. Local Committee Reports (Round-Robin)

UCI: There is continued concern and pushback against the rollout of EDR (endpoint detection and response) software. The UCI Senate sent a resolution to President Drake asking for a pause but heard back from the President that the implementation will continue.

UCB: Berkeley faculty have filed a lawsuit over federal government funding cuts. There is faculty opposition to implementation of EDR.

UCD: The local committee has spent time working on selections for large grants proposals, of which only ten percent are able to be funded. Research administration on the campus seems to be improving.

UCSC: The local COR will have a reduced amount of funding for large faculty grants after spending funding the small (\$2,000) and travel grants. Next year's total budget for faculty grants will be just \$1million, but the Senate has a plan to approach financial and/or development administrators to see if there is a way to get additional funding. The UCSC Provost/EVC is stepping down and the interim provost will be a long-standing former dean of physical and biological sciences. The Senate is urging the administration to resist attempts from federal government to collect information about students and faculty and asking the chancellor to issue a mutual statement.

UCR: UC Riverside has a new chancellor. Researchers and research administrators are dealing with termination of grants.

UCSD: One of the UCSD COR's goals was to identify specific recommendations for the ongoing Oracle debacle. One is compensation for those impacted. The committee has pushed for an audit and is hearing from faculty about how the difficulties of the system impacted their work. The recommendations will be in the committee's report.

UCSB: UCSB is pleased to have a more streamlined process for faculty research grants. The faculty legislature proposed a resolution to pause implementation of EDR on the campus. The search for a new VCR is down to finalists. The chancellor search is in its final stage as well. The campus is getting ready for its Oracle go-live date this summer. The local committee reviewed the revision of the APM-360 (Appointment and Promotion for the Librarian series) and are supportive of the librarians.

³ <https://www.ucop.edu/research-policy-analysis-coordination/policies-guidance/dual-use-research-of-concern/>

UCM: The faculty's ongoing advocacy to improve the Oracle financial system seems to be finally paying off. The system is becoming more workable for researchers, who can now generate reports automatically. There are still problems that need to be fixed. UCM has created a fund to help researchers with grant cancellations.

UCSF: UCSF is actively exploring ways to support researchers affected by funding cuts. The local committee heard from the IRB Director about a new fee structure and discussed strategies to further streamline the application process. Another local discussion focused on clarifying the terms of the campus policy on clinical trial reporting.

IV. Wrap Up for the Year

Members were asked to provide input on the UCORP meetings of the past year, including what worked well and suggestions for improvement. Members said that they appreciated the opportunity to meet with the Academic Senate leadership and hear updates on systemwide issues. They appreciated the briefings from UCOP administrators and sharing information with colleagues from other campuses. It was suggested that the in-person meeting be held earlier in the academic year.

Members were provided with a link to the inaugural Systemwide Senate Service Experience Survey at the end of the meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 11:35am

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCORP analyst

Attest: Susanne B. Nicholas, UCORP Chair

Meeting participants:

Susanne Nicholas (Chair, UCLA), James Weatherall (Vice Chair, UC Irvine), Abby Dernburg (UC Berkeley), David Rocke (UC Davis), Nicolás Ulibarri (UC Irvine), Dennis Lettenmaier (UCLA), Tao Ye (UC Merced), Rachel Wu (UC Riverside), Ramesh Rao (alternate, UC San Diego), Bin Liu (UC San Francisco), Stephanie Malia Hom (UC Santa Barbara), Nirvikar Singh (UC Santa Cruz), Steven Cheung (Academic Council Chair), Ahmet Palazoglu (Academic Council Vice Chair), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst), Deborah Motton (Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Lourdes DeMattos (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Agnes Balla (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Kathleen Erwin (Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office), Anna Ward (Director, UC Research Initiatives).