



**University Committee on Research Policy  
Monday, December 9, 2024  
Meeting Minutes**

**I. Chair's announcements, agenda review, approval of minutes**

*Susanne Nicholas, UCORP Chair*

UCORP Chair Susanne Nicholas went over the topics discussed at the November Academic Council meeting and the recent Academic Planning Council (APC) meeting.

UCORP will be asked to provide input to the APC Workgroup on a Systemwide Academic Calendar via an online survey. A cost analysis will be conducted by a subgroup. UCORP members wondered about what would be done with the results of the survey and how they would be weighted into the decision.

UCORP members were reminded about the MRU review process. Comments are requested by January 14<sup>th</sup>. Interviews with the directors of the UC Observatories and Bioengineering Institute of California are being scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>, during UCORP's in-person meeting.

Jim Weatherall reported that the Faculty AI Workgroup held its initial meeting, which consisted of introductions and discussion about the charge. The second meeting will include UCOP administrators.

**ACTION:** Meeting minutes from November 18<sup>th</sup> were approved.

**II. Systemwide Review Item: Proposed Presidential Policy on the Use of Animals in Research, Teaching, and Testing** (Comments due February 18, 2025)

The committee analyst will send a reminder about this policy in January to determine if there is any interest in providing specific feedback. Otherwise, the committee will express its appreciation for the work of the UCOP policy managers in revising the policy and checking in with the Academic Senate along the way.

**III. Academic Senate Leadership Update**

Academic Council Vice Chair Ahmet Palazoglu joined the meeting to provide an overview of current activities of the Senate.

UC Regents discussed recently released reports on antisemitism and islamophobia at UCLA and have requested an explanation for why no staff or faculty at UCLA have been disciplined after events of last spring. At the next Regents' meeting, Senate leaders will be joined by UCLA Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Personnel Michael Levine for a presentation about the Senate's disciplinary processes.

The UAW has agreed to a contract extension for graduate student employees through January 2026, with a salary increase to take effect as planned.

The MOP loan program will receive an infusion of \$100m in January 2025, with distribution to campuses based on need. To help with the program, it was suggested that UC Finance sell the loans. UC investments cannot purchase them, but it's possible that campus foundations would be able to.

A meeting of the Assembly of the Academic Senate will be held on Thursday. The two approval items on the agenda are an updated "UC Quality" statement from UCEP and an Ethnic Studies admission requirement ("Area H").

A special meeting of the Academic Assembly has been called for January to discuss the President's cybersecurity directive, the timing of faculty salary increases (October rather than July), and the rising cost of health care premiums.

Executive searches are underway for UC President, UC Education Abroad Program Director, UCSB Chancellor and UC Riverside Chancellor.

#### *Workgroup updates*

The APC Workgroup on Systemwide Academic Calendar has met three times and is finalizing an input form to gather information on how constituents feel about some of the potential aspects of a semester calendar. The ultimate systemwide calendar does not necessarily have to mirror the current calendars of UC Berkeley and UC Merced; it is possible that all campuses would change their schedules. The results of the initial survey will be used as preliminary feedback to inform discussions of various models.

The workgroup to review APMs 015 and 016 was convened to fulfill a statutory requirement of the CA Budget Act that required review of policies around administrative responses pertaining to free expression and community safety. The workgroup has so far found that APM 015 is sufficient and is not proposing any changes. It will likely recommend the development of guidelines that are like those for SVSH (sexual violence and sexual harassment), to address freedom of academic expression and related questions.

The APC Workgroup on Doctoral Education, which was convened last year, is wrapping up its work. Co-chairs Susannah Scott (previous UCSB Academic Senate Chair) and Gillian Hayes, Vice Provost for Graduate Education and Dean of the Graduate Division at UC Irvine reviewed the group's report and recommendations at the October Academic Council meeting and will collect feedback from systemwide committees and others before the report is finalized.

UC HR is conducting a total remuneration and benefits review that will be complemented by a separation study. There will be Senate representation on the workgroups that will help guide the process and ensure that it is consistent with past reviews.

The UC San Diego representative asked whether there would be any funds from systemwide provided as compensation for losses due to the transition to ESR (Enterprise Systems Renewal – or Oracle Financial System) Some faculty were significantly disadvantaged and have not been able to see fund balances for several years.

There was also a question about additional funds to help with ASE (academic student employee) salary increases under the UAW contract. Funds were provided last year, but so far there has been no word about this year.

#### **IV. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Research and Innovation**

- *Vice President for Research & Innovation*

Vice President for Research and Innovation Theresa Maldonado provided an update on the planning for the UC Research Congress. There will be a state agency panel that includes a representative from CDPH (California Department of Public Health), Dee Dee Myers, Senior Advisor to the Governor and Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), and Wade Crowfoot, Secretary of the California Natural Resources Agency. Sudip Parikh, Chief Executive Officer of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and Executive Publisher of *Science* will give the keynote on first night. Holden Thorp, the Editor in Chief of the Sciences family of journals will talk about publication. There will be discussion of the recent efforts for a new science infrastructure vision for the US (coming up on the anniversary of the Vannevar Bush Endless Frontier). Provost Newman is convening a humanities session with deans from the humanities.

All UCORP members will be invited to attend the congress, which will take place March 11-12<sup>th</sup>. Ideas for outcomes and next steps are welcome.

A Steering Committee is being formed to guide the implementation of the new IP Management System. After the holidays, VP Maldonado will convene a special “Committee of Inventors” and asked UCORP members to think about who on their campuses would be a good representative for such a committee. Maldonado will provide a charge and anticipated timelines – it’s likely that the group will meet for 2-3 years.

Members asked whether the university was considering ways to insulate UC researchers from potential negative effects of the incoming administration. UC’s Office of Federal Government Relations is working on guidance. Almost 20 years ago, the state of Texas created the Cancer Prevention & Research Institute of Texas (CPRI) in part to expand Texas financial resources beyond oil. Former Governor Rick Perry created the Texas Emerging Technology Fund that provides financial investment support to companies and educational institutions. SpaceX is a recent recipient.

VP Maldonado mentioned her interest in development of an AI infrastructure for research.

- *UC Research Initiatives*

Director for UC Research Initiatives Anna Ward provided an update on recent research awards. The Lab Fees Research Program (LFRP) awarded two Collaborative Research and Training grants for a total of \$7.95 million over three years. The LFRP In-Residence Graduate Fellowship awarded eight

grants for a total of \$1.5 million. Three of the fellows will go to Los Alamos National Lab and five will go to Lawrence Livermore.

The Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) competition received 59 applications for its planning/pilot award. Six proposals were awarded. 94 applications were received for the longer-term program award, with eight proposals awarded. Press releases will be available in January.

More information about the LFRP and MRPI awards can be found on the Research Initiatives website: <https://www.ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/>.

Programs related to Artificial Intelligence and Fusion continue to make progress. The latest RFP for the Cancer Research Coordinating Committee (which provides small grants) has been issued, with LOIs due January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The firefighter cancer prevention and research projects (<https://ucop.edu/research-initiatives/programs/initiatives-spfunds/firefighter-cancer.html>) were seen as successful collaborations between the state and UC.

## **V. Consultation with the Office of the President – Office of Ethics, Compliance and Audit Services**

- *NSF Research Security Training Opportunity*

UC Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Alexander Bustamante joined the meeting to talk about an opportunity for UC to collaborate with the National Science Foundation (NSF) on a Faculty Research Security Training Initiative to develop in-person training modules. Dr. Rebecca Keiser from NSF extended an invitation for UC to work with her team to provide input into the new training. SVP Bustamante said that this presents a unique opportunity for UC to not only strengthen a valuable partnership but also to help shape the training to better suit the needs of UC's community. It will lay the groundwork for future collaboration on matters of research compliance and security.

Committee members asked whether the NSF training would align with requirements of other federal agencies, and whether in-person was an appealing proposition. The next step will be an outline of the training provided to UCORP in January for review and feedback. In February, SVP Bustamante will meet with Dr. Keiser to refine the objectives and structure. The training will be designed over the course of the spring and summer and delivered to NSF for review and approval in late summer or early fall.

- *Federal Research Security Update*

SVP Bustamante briefly touched on federal requirements. The National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM) 33 requires stronger and standardized disclosure requirements for federally funded awards. The CHIPS and Science Act prohibits federal research agencies from awarding grants or funding to researchers or entities associated with "malign foreign talent programs." These measures are meant to protect U.S. research from potential national security risks, but involve an increased amount of work on the part of institutions and individuals.

## **VI. Local Committee Reports (Round-Robin)**

Committee members reported on issues facing their local Committees on Research and other research-related campus news.

*UCLA:* The UCLA COR completed its statement of principles for the new research park, including integration of the “north campus” (non-medical fields). The Senate reviewed changes to UCLA’s exposure control device program that will push certification back onto PIs. The Senate is trying to figure out if there is any alternative.

*UC Irvine:* UCI’s CORCL is focused on issues of cybersecurity.

*UC Santa Cruz:* The Santa Cruz campus is facing a structural budget deficit and discussions of budget cuts are dominating Senate conversations. There have been hints of a weakening of the research mission of the campus that are concerning to faculty, and not just in STEM.

*UC Santa Barbara:* The chancellor search and lack of representation from Humanities and Fine Arts has been a big topic of discussion. Similar to the sentiment at Santa Cruz, without a medical school, UCSB receives less research support funding. The local committee is looking into simplifying the faculty grants via a two-tier system.

*UC Davis:* UC Davis is also making changes to its large faculty grant process. Small grants of \$2k are available to anyone who applies from departments where the teaching load is 12 units or higher per year. Oracle financial system problems continue. The chancellor is undergoing his 5-year review.

*UCSF:* UCSF’s Clinical & Translational Science Institute (CTSI) has proposed that community members be included on review committees for Resource Allocation Program (RAP) grants. Community members can identify concerns about the feasibility, safety, impact, and relevance of a study. CTSI’s Community Engagement Program will identify and train appropriate community reviewers. The proposal starts with incorporating community members into review committees that focus on human subject research.

*UC Merced:* With continued struggles with the Oracle financial management system, it has to be clear that the chancellor is the ultimate responsible party. Merced has seen some improvements, but they are slow and staff retention remains poor.

*UC San Diego:* UCSD switched to Oracle in 2020 and yet problems continue. A “hypercare” team was formed and has resulted in faculty learning just now of deficits in accounts and that numbers from previous years were inaccurate. The Senate is trying to get administrative funds to cover these deficits.

In considering what UCORP can do to help the campuses that have been adversely impacted by the transition to new financial systems, it was suggested that each representative from an impacted campus send a paragraph conveying the current issues.

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Meeting adjourned: 12:35pm  
Meeting notes 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), Dennis Lettenmaier (UCLA), Tao Ye (UC Merced), Rachel Wu (UC Riverside), Elina Zuniga (UC San Diego), Bin Liu (UC San Francisco), Stephanie Hom (UC Santa Barbara), Nirvikar Singh (UC Santa Cruz), Ahmet Palazoglu (Academic Council Vice Chair), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst), Theresa Maldonado (Vice President for Research and Innovation), Kathleen Erwin (Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office), Anna Ward (Director, UC Research Initiatives), Lourdes DeMattos (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Agnes Balla (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Alexander Bustamante (Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance and Audit Officer), Irene Levintov (Chief of Staff, and Director of Compliance)