



**University Committee on Research Policy  
Monday, May 11, 2026**

**Meeting Minutes**

**I. Chair's Announcements and Updates**

• ***Research Funding Disclosure and other Academic Council updates***

UCORP Chair James Weatherall brought the proposal for a “policy study group” on research funding transparency to the April Academic Council meeting. Council members seemed open to the formation of a workgroup to assess the challenges and opportunities for increasing transparency while preserving privacy. The intention is for the workgroup to be composed of Senate members and to consult with research administrators. UCORP members were asked to think about who might serve on the group.

• ***UCAD Plus Research Workgroup***

All five UCAD Plus workgroups produced reports that were compiled and shared with the UCAD Plus Steering Committee and the administration's Project Transformation team. Both groups convened in Irvine last week for an in-person meeting to discuss the draft recommendations from the five groups.

**Action taken:** UCORP Meeting Minutes from 04/13/2026 were approved.

**II. Academic Senate Leadership Update**

Academic Council Vice Chair Susannah Scott joined the meeting to provide an overview of current activities of the Senate. (Academic Council Chair Ahmet Palazoglu was unavailable.)

All campuses were impacted by the Canvas learning management system ransomware attack. The chair of the Academic Senate Universitywide Committee on Academic Computing and Communications was invited to join high level IT administration meetings. Division chairs received information on the situation. Faculty have noted the vulnerability of a single service provider, and this will be a topic for future Senate discussion. It seems that personal data was not released.

UC reached a contract agreement with the union representing graduate students, although there are still some details to be worked out. More information will be sent from the systemwide provost's office. Some campuses will see more increases in student salaries than others, depending on the distribution of appointments in higher and lower bands. Some modeling was done during negotiations, but the actual outcomes are still to be determined.

Unit 18 Lecturers have started negotiations with UC for their next contract. The last round took two years to reach an agreement. Issues on the table include academic freedom and job security. Former Senate Chair Robert May is on the bargaining team for UC.

At the Board of Regents' meeting last week there were four new members who had been appointed by Governor Newsom. Academic Council Chair Ahmet Palazoglu focused his remarks on the Master Plan for Education, the tenets of which are being challenged by some California legislators. Some think the plan is out of date and would like to see community colleges offer bachelor's degrees and Cal States freely offer doctorate degrees. There are a few pending bills in the legislature to further these interests. UC acknowledges the need for change but is advocating for a more planned approach.

The UCAD Plus Task Force report will be distributed for systemwide review in fall.

A total remuneration study for the University is still pending. The Academic Senate's Task Force on Investment and Retirement (TFIR) provided some input to the methodology.

UC expects to receive the proposed increase in state funding for the upcoming fiscal year. The "May Revise" from the governor's office is due this week. The January governor's budget included the agreed upon increase due under the compact with the governor, as well as a partial restoration of previously held compact funds and increases for special programs.

The Academic Council spent some time discussing changes to the search waiver process involving President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP) participants. The search waiver process is left to campus discretion, and PPFP fellows are eligible.

Federal government funding impacts on UC are still unclear. Due to the federal government shutdown, slow transfers of funds, and other issues, the numbers are not yet reliable. The impact greatly depends on field, and while some areas may be greatly impacted, others are not.

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

#### ***Patent Tracking System Update***

Kimberly Jones-Ross, the Interim Executive Director for Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship, joined the meeting to talk about the work of her office, including the status of the patent tracking system renewal that is about to undergo user acceptance testing. UCOP's office of Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship engages in all aspects of the innovation lifecycle, including patent tracking and prosecution, technology transfer and promotion, income distribution, and compliance. There are over 3,000 users of the current system, including both internal and external users. UC holds 6,000 active US patents and over 12,000 patents worldwide.

The new tracking system, using Wellspring's Evolve technology and a Salesforce platform, will bring more efficiency and transparency, including the ability to create customized dashboards and automate disclosures. Currently, inventors cannot see their own information online, but with the new system they will be able to see assets, distributions, and more. Once the system is in place, it will be used at all campuses except for UCSD, which has its own platform (also a Wellspring system). The biggest impact on faculty will be its use for invention disclosure and patent prosecution.

Jones-Ross will provide UCORP members with information on how faculty on the campuses can provide feedback on the system once it goes live.

### **Federal Government Research Funding**

The group briefly discussed information coming out about changes at federal agencies, specifically the news that NSF plans to eliminate its Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences (SBE) directorate and possibly others. The idea seems to be that some programs and program officers will be moved to other directorates, but panels have been cancelled and some fear that programs will “sunset” if not addressed by end of fiscal year. UC’s VCRs are meeting in DC soon and UCORP is invited to send questions to VP Theresa Maldonado that could help inform discussions with legislative or agency staff.

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

UC Irvine – The local committee has reviewed the various reports that have come out about AI and is discussing establishing a joint faculty-administrative AI Council. It seems that about half of the divisions have done so, some with charges that include “oversight” and others not. UC Riverside seems to have a well-functioning council, and UCI would be interested in hearing about any other campus successes in establishing a wide-ranging council concerned with admissions, teaching, job security, research, and more.

UC San Francisco – The local COR has re-structured how the Senate collaborates with the VCR to include two meetings per year structured around formal faculty input on priorities. UCSF continues to advocate for health research funding. The committees on planning and budget and equal opportunity are joining COR to ask the administration for transparency around expenditures of funds meant for bridge or safety net funding for faculty.

UC Berkeley – VCR Kathy Yelick has been appointed as the new director of Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. She had been a big advocate for UC funding at the federal level, and her departure from the position will be a loss.

UCLA – COR is discussing implications of the new union contract for GSRs, including how to distinguish training by what is required and is not. There have been suggestions for eliminating TAs for courses when possible.

UC Santa Barbara – The local committee is discussing controlled unclassified information requirements and issues around facility design and construction. UCSB is also dealing with a structural deficit.

UC Santa Cruz – Jennifer Johnson-Hanks from UC Berkeley will start as the new campus provost in January. UCSC has seen its admissions yield rate decrease in recent years and is discussing how to address it, including ideas for countering negative public perceptions. There is a top-down initiative to centralize student advising, and discussions about merging the arts and humanities divisions.

UC Merced – Wrapping up the semester, the committee is talking about budget cuts and potential restructuring, with some reductions blamed on the union contract. COR was able to fund 40 faculty grant awards this year, which is more than ever before (thanks to additional funding). There is interest in a research-related fundraising effort. A couple of the campus ORUs are undergoing reviews involving changes in structure and naming.

UC Davis – The committee continues to work with the research administration on understanding and mitigating issues that have arisen with the new financial management system and to develop plans. Eliza Bliss-Moreau will share the charge – if permissible – and the outcomes. UC Davis has a larger group, the START Task Force, an initiative launched in 2023 to inform the provost’s long-term planning.

UC San Diego (*update from Vice Chair Elina Zuniga*) – UCSD is still dealing with the impacts of the Oracle financial system implementation, with the latest issues the shift of responsibility to faculty and away from the department. This includes unexpected deficits and use of discretionary funds. COR invited an administrator to go over any updates.

## **V. Research Funding Transparency**

Committee members reviewed the description and charge for a new task force on research funding transparency. The group would look at policies, opportunities, and challenges related to funding disclosure. Members suggested changes to the wording and asked about the formation. It was agreed that membership should include representation from the committees on faculty welfare and planning & budget, and that there should be a mix of perspectives. After making revisions to the task force charge, Chair Weatherall will meet with Senate leadership to discuss next steps.

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Meeting adjourned: 12:30pm

Meeting minutes drafted by: Joanne Miller, UCORP Analyst

Attest: James Weatherall, UCORP Chair

### **Meeting participants:**

James Weatherall (Chair, UCI), Elina Zuniga (Vice Chair), Ana Arias (Berkeley), Eliza Bliss-Moreau (Davis), Michael Fortun (Irvine), Dimitri Shlyahtenko (Los Angeles), Ramendra "Ramen" Saha (Merced), Kartika Palar (San Francisco), Dave Valentine (Santa Barbara), Nirvikar Singh (Santa Cruz), Susannah Scott (Ex Officio, Academic Council Vice Chair), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst), Kathleen Erwin (Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office), Kimberly Jones-Ross (Interim Executive Director for Innovation Transfer and Entrepreneurship), Lourdes DeMattos (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Agnes Balla (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination)