



University Committee on Research Policy
Monday, November 10, 2025

Meeting minutes

I. Academic Senate Leadership Update

Academic Council Chair Ahmet Palazoglu provided updates on the current activities of the Senate.

The Academic Senate has had multiple interactions with UC President JB Milliken in which he has discussed the Department of Justice demands that were sent to UCLA. President Milliken says that there were no negotiations after the administration received the letter, which has now been made public. Chair Palazoglu noted deals and outcomes from other universities.

The Academic Council issued a statement outlining faculty concerns with UC Berkeley's release to the government of documents that included the names of faculty, staff, and potentially students. President Milliken and UC Legal have offered explanations of why UC was obligated to release the information. Several weeks ago, a group of faculty petitioned Chair Palazoglu to hold a special Assembly meeting to approve a formal resolution regarding the release of names. That meeting will take place on November 20th.

The Board of Regents will review UC's budget proposal to the state for 2026-27. This is the last year of UC's compact with Governor Newsom. The state budget outlook is still uncertain, but UC hopes to issue state bond measures. Senator Scott Wiener has proposed funding \$23 billion to support research via a California-based science foundation. Renewal of UC's tuition stability plan (cohort tuition) is also on the upcoming Regents' meeting agenda.

Healthcare premium costs are going up for many UC employees, but the administration is trying to mitigate the burden by increasing the employer's share by 9.5%.

In labor news, UC reached an agreement with UPTE. Provost Newman sends monthly updates on negotiations with UAW.

Faculty are concerned about the fate of the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP) due to the pending discontinuation of the hiring incentive, which costs on the order of is \$17 million per year. UCOP is facing budget cuts and is looking to cut discretionary funding. There seems to have been no faculty consultation as this decision was being considered. The Academic Council will discuss and determine next steps.

Several workgroups are getting started or are underway. Comments about the interim report of the Academic Senate's Task Force on UC Adaptations to Disruptions (UCAD) are being synthesized and will be reviewed by the Academic Council at its next meeting. The successor task force, UCAD Plus,

is a joint effort of the administration and the Senate that includes all ten executive vice chancellors and other campus leaders. UCPT has formed three workgroups that are considering the changes to APM 015 and 016 and the interim systemwide guidelines on faculty discipline. One group is reviewing the changes to faculty discipline in the APM, another is working on the proposed systemwide P&T committee in conjunction with R&J, and a third is working with UCAF to review the faculty discipline guidelines around expressive activity (“Attachment B”).

II. Chair’s Announcements and Updates

- UCOP Chair James Weatherall is the co-chair along with the UC Santa Cruz Interim Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Paul Koch of the UCAD Plus Workgroup on Research Activities and Infrastructure.
- Weatherall is also serving on a Research Security workgroup convened by Provost Newman and Vice President for Ethics, Compliance, and Audit Services Alex Bustamente. The group is following up on the recommendations of a task force on foreign influence to review UC’s policies for any revisions that may be needed to comply with federal policy.
- UCSD’s Ramesh Rao agreed to serve as UCOP’s liaison to the Academic Council Special Committee on Laboratory Issues ([ACSCOLI](#)), with UC Merced Professor Ramen Saha as backup.
- **Action taken:** The minutes from UCOP’s 10/13/2025 meeting were approved.

III. UCAD Plus Workgroup on Research Activities and Infrastructure (See: ([UCAD Plus](#))

UCOP members were provided with the goals of the UCAD Plus Workgroup on Research Activities and Infrastructure and offered feedback and suggestions.

- Today’s financial disruptions are seen as an unusual circumstance, but some volatility is normal and could be evened out via some sort of “insurance fund” or other method to provide continuity. Potentially, a fraction of indirect cost funding could be used for this.
- Identification of new sources for research funding, including industry, foundations, and “taxing” of self-supporting master’s degree programs. Most of the revenue from self-supported programs stays within a department.
- Determine whether research funds subsidize undergraduate instruction.
- Explore the creation of certificate programs, programs for high school students related to research, and establishing fee-based agreements with foreign universities.
- California could explore the possibility of joining the European Research Council, which distributes large grants.
- Campus development offices are not generally set up to support researchers in fundraising for their own research. They could do more to help package research to make it attractive to funders or to cultivate a relevant philanthropist.
- Seize the opportunity to capitalize on the news of disappearing federal funding to be strategic in development efforts.
- Take an equity stake in start-ups that use intellectual property developed at a campus and charge for use of facilities.
- Disruptions to research funding will be felt differentially by disciplines. Humanities and social sciences don’t have as many options for funding as STEM fields. In making its

recommendations, the UCAD Plus workgroup should pay attention to the differential impacts.

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

Theresa Maldonado, Vice President for Research and Innovation

Deborah Motton, Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination

Kathleen Erwin, Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office

Vice President for Research & Innovation (R&I) Theresa Maldonado provided an overview of her office and the work in which it is currently engaged. The replacement of UC's legacy centralized patent tracking system is almost complete and will be used by half of the campuses. Other campuses have implemented their own systems.

The Research Policy Analysis and Coordination (RPAC) unit is responsible for maintaining and updating all research-related policies and activities related to research administration. The staff supports systemwide groups of research administrators, including contracts and grants officers, conflict of interest coordinators, animal care and use committees, and others that maintain UC's research infrastructure. The team also works with UC's Federal Government Relations unit and with national organizations such as COGR, the national organization monitoring federal policies and regulations affecting U.S. research institutions.

The Research Grant Program Office (RGPO) runs grant competitions such as the Multicampus Research Programs and initiatives (MRPI), Lab Fees Research Program (LFRP), and other ongoing and one-time systemwide awards. The big climate action seed and matching grant award program from a few years ago is managed by RGPO.

R&I also oversees the Natural Reserve System, which runs outdoor centers on behalf of the state that study impacts of biodiversity and related topics, and the UC Observatories, which is a multicampus research unit (MRU) that is regularly reviewed by UCORP.

VP Maldonado said that funding for the Hydrogen Hub has been terminated by the Department of Energy. California's team has paused but will try to gather the stakeholders from industry and communities that are still interested to determine if continuing the work is an option.

VP Maldonado is working with the governor's office on multi-entity programs in quantum information and fusion.

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

The status of a rate cap for indirect costs (IDC) at the federal level is still unknown. The cap has been proposed by OMB, but it is unclear whether Congress is on board. UC and other university delegations are trying to provide information and influence the decision. Meanwhile, the campuses are modeling for potential changes to IDC.

- *UC Research Initiatives*

The Lab Fees Research Program, which uses the revenue earned by UC for managing the national labs to sponsor research and foster new collaborations between UC faculty and national laboratory scientists is undergoing a review. The idea is to make it more nimble and responsive to current topics. The Council of Vice Chancellors for Research formed small working group with national lab equivalent members and drafted a plan for moving forward.

V. Local Committee Reports (Round-Robin)

UC Merced: With a cut to the Senate budget, faculty grants may not be available this year. UCORP members from other campuses offered advice for restoring funding. COR has offered suggestions for more frequent evaluation of campus administrative units (assessing the unit rather than individual evaluations) and working with the administration to develop guiding principles and control points for budget cuts.

UC Santa Cruz: COR's budget for faculty grant funding was cut significantly. The committee elevated the issue to Senate leadership and is discussing options with the VC-R. In a restructuring move related to compliance, research analysts were moved from divisions to central administration. COR is planning a short (2-3 question) survey for faculty to gather information about anticipated changes and where research could be better highlighted by the institution.

UC San Diego is engaging in research continuity discussions between senior administrators and faculty to plan for funding cuts. These conversations are aligned with UCAD Plus discussions. Suggestions for consideration include the “85% rule” that would allow continued spending for 90 days at 85% of previously budgeted rates if your funding gets cut. Some departments are not admitting graduate students, but self-supporting programs continue to thrive.

UC Berkeley: COR's primary topic of discussion right now is the growing administrative burden on faculty.

UC Santa Barbara is about to start its Oracle financial modernization process and feels somewhat prepared after consulting with other campuses. Faculty are pleased to be able to see account balances in one place. COR is looking into indirect cost spending to understand what would happen if it is cut.

UC Riverside's faculty grant funds are still in place. UCR's Senate committees have been discussing the UCAD interim report and the proposed new guidelines and changes to 015 & 016.

UC Davis's COR is concerned about how changes in funding for graduate student researchers, either due to a new UAW contract or to funding reductions, will impact the research enterprise.

VI. Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy on Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct (Comments due December 10, 2025)

Members discussed the draft Policy on Responding to Allegations of Research Misconduct with RPAC, including the definition of “research misconduct.” The policy points to the [Federal Policy](#) definition, but also repeats a very brief definition in the Definitions section. The language in the policy is tied to other related policies that are listed in Section VI on Related Information/Resources. Locations will have their own local policies and procedures that are managed by campus Offices of Research.

UCORP members were concerned about lack of specificity and felt that the “Policy Text” section does not clearly enough indicate what the policy is about. There is an understanding that the policy

meets federal standards, but members felt that it needed to be clearer to serve a true purpose for the UC community.

ACTION: A draft letter will be distributed for comment.

VII. Other Systemwide Issues Under Review

UCORP members also discussed the Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices (Comments due December 10, 2025) and agreed to send feedback. Members suggested that the policy include use of solar or other carbon neutral options for *energy generation*. Members also suggested that transparency and accountability for AI and other high-performance energy usage considerations be included in the sustainability policy. Tracking the environmental impact of new technologies might be another consideration.

Action: A draft letter on the Proposed Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices will be distributed for comment.

Meeting adjourned: 12:23pm

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 Shlyahenko (Los Angeles), Ramendra "Ramen" Saha (Merced), Padma Rangarajan (Riverside), Ramesh Rao (San Diego), Kartika Palar (San Francisco), Dave Valentine (Santa Barbara), Nirvikar Singh (Santa Cruz), Ahmet Palazoglu (Ex-Officio, Academic Council Chair), Susannah Scott (Ex Officio, Academic Council Vice Chair), Joanne Miller (Committee Analyst), Theresa Maldonado (Vice President for Research and Innovation), Deborah Motton (Executive Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Kathleen Erwin (Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office), Lourdes DeMattos (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination)