



**University Committee on Research Policy  
Monday, March 9, 2026**

**Meeting Minutes**

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

- Chair James Weatherall serves on the Senate's advisory group on labor relations (which is purely advisory; it is not part of the bargaining team). The contract with the union representing graduate students has expired and negotiations continue.
- Weatherall also serves on a workgroup for research disclosure compliance. The group was convened to address several emerging compliance challenges, and the contents of the meetings are confidential. With regard to public information, Weatherall noted that one topic of likely future interest to UCORP will be the implementation of National Security Presidential Memorandum-33, issued in January 2021. NSPM-33 requires federal agencies to implement security programs for information technology, foreign travel, export control training, and disclosure. None of the major agencies have implemented the requirements yet, but they are expected to do so in the future.
- *UCAD Plus Research Workgroup update:* The workgroup on research activities and infrastructure has had productive conversations and will produce recommendations by the April 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. The group has noted the friction between long-range planning for efficiency and responding to disruptions, and for recommendations of large-scale transformations versus focused changes. But ideas for resilience in the face of disruption may potentially be useful for future planning.

Former UC Berkeley Vice Chancellor for Research Randy Katz has been working on a project for the systemwide provost to assess how UC's research infrastructure could be effectively shared across campuses. Cal-ISIs offer examples. UCPB has already sent a letter with recommendations for shared infrastructure to the provost.<sup>1</sup> The UCAD Plus workgroup is looking at other models, such as the collaborative structure of the UC libraries and multi-campus research units (MRUs) and discussing how resource sharing might be incentivized. As a federated system, the campuses and medical centers already share some infrastructure and systems.

- *Systemwide Items Under Review:* The committee discussed the proposed revisions to the Policy on Anatomical Donation Program and Anatomical Materials. Questions that arose included the timing of the revision and the need for more clarity and specificity about which anatomical materials are covered by the policy.

**Action:** UCORP will send a brief response memo.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/reports/council-chair-provost-ucad-plus-shared-research-infrastructure.pdf>

**Action taken:** UCORP's meeting minutes from 02/09/2026 were approved.

## **II. Academic Senate Leadership Update**

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

*Budget:* The governor's preliminary January budget proposal provides \$5.2 billion for UC, an increase of about 7% in ongoing funding, which includes 2% in deferred funds from last year. The university is supporting two general obligation bonds that are expected to be on the November ballot. One supports affordable housing construction. The other, SB 895, establishes the California Foundation for Science and Health Research to fund competitive research grants, low-interest loans and research facilities focused on urgent statewide priorities. President Milliken announced recently that UC is "co-sponsoring" SB 895, which means that UC will work hard to push for it and will be involved in any amendments. UC's Office of State Governmental Relations is leading advocacy efforts.

*Lawsuits:* The federal government is suing UCLA for Title VII violations, alleging an antisemitic hostile work environment for Jewish and Israeli faculty and staff. The suit asks for injunctive relief and compensation for individuals affected. Chair Palazoglu noted an interview with President Milliken in the LA times and an op-ed piece by UCLA Chancellor Frenk in the Wall Street Journal.

*IT Accessibility:* New federal IT accessibility requirements and new UC policy have been discussed systemwide. The deadline for compliance is mid-April, and campuses will need to prioritize work and assist faculty with an enormous task. The focus will be on institutional compliance and support for faculty.

*UC admissions:* BOARS is tasked with developing a roadmap for a comprehensive review of admissions policies and the preparedness of applicants.

*Journal licensing:* UC has not come to an agreement with the American Chemical Society for renewal of its journal licensing contract. Although UC owns perpetual rights to back content, the university is at risk of losing access to current and future content.

*Labor:* The union representing graduate students and other UC staff has voted to authorize a strike should one be deemed necessary. Faculty should be receiving updates from Senate leaders and systemwide Provost Catherine Newman. Unit 18 Lecturers will start their negotiations in June. The bargaining team will include former Academic Senate Chair Robert May.

*LFRP:* Asked about proposed changes to the Lab Fees Research Program, Chair Palazoglu confirmed that input for Vice President Yu should be communicated through ACSCOLI.

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

- ***Vice President for Research & Innovation***

Vice President Theresa Maldonado talked briefly about the several workgroups involved in research security review. Last year, UC began an effort to assess the university's vulnerabilities with regard to

compliance with federal regulations.<sup>2</sup> The administration is mindful of overburdening faculty as compliance becomes more complex.

VP Maldonado said that she is waiting for full information on the past year to assess changes to federal funding to UC. Some data or grants might be delayed due to the government shutdown.

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

Policy Director Agnes Balla talked about two comment letters that are in development. One responds to the NIH's proposed policy on controlled data and revisions to the NIH Genomic Data Sharing Policy.<sup>3</sup>

The second letter relates to an NIH RFI<sup>4</sup> on embryonic stem cell research and responds to series of questions. Comments are due April 24.

NIH seems to be changing its guidance for gift disclosures.<sup>5</sup> UCOP is working on new guidance to disseminate to Contracts and Grants offices. Changes to indirect cost rates are still not settled; UC continues to monitor the Federal Register for any changes to uniform guidance.

UCORP members noted that a centralized reporting system, perhaps extending the existing OATS system would be helpful to manage different conflict of interest policies across agencies and funding types. Campuses that use Quali could take advantage of that system.

- **UC Research Initiatives**

The latest UC Cancer Research Coordinating Committee (CRCC) competition received the highest number of applicants in its history. This year's program added pre- and post-doc fellowships.

The Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) competition for the 2027 award year is underway, with letters of intent due in mid-March. The opportunity is open to all fields; proposals must include three or more campuses. Pilot awards are for 1-2 years with a maximum request of \$250,000 per year for new collaborations. A total of \$5.8 million is available. This year the team is adjusting the awards process to produce a higher success rate for invited full proposals.

#### **IV. Re-Envisioning of UC's Lab Fees Research Program (LFRP)**

As discussed at the last meeting, UC's Office of the National Laboratories seeks Senate input into re-envisioning the Lab Fees Research Program (LFRP). The Academic Council's Special Committee on Lab Issues (ACSCOLI) is taking the lead. UCORP members who asked their divisional committees for input noted that faculty see the program as a niche opportunity that is very important to a limited number of people. There was interest in a mechanism for more easily involving early career and post docs in the programs and the labs.

**Action:** Chair Weatherall will share UCORP feedback with ASCSOLI Chair Lorenzo Valdevit.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-memorandum-united-states-government-supported-research-development-national-security-policy/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-023.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/notice-files/NOT-OD-26-031.html>

<sup>5</sup> <https://grants.nih.gov/sites/default/files/NIH-Examples-Scenarios-Monetary-Donations.pdf>

## **V. Follow-up Discussion on Funding Disclosure and Transparency**

After UCSD Professor Craig Callender's presentation at the December UCORP meeting, committee members were asked to seek input from local CORs on their opinions about funding disclosure and transparency, including ideas for educating faculty about research transparency. UCSD members pointed out that the 2024 UCSD Senate resolution was adopted but not implemented. Public sharing of research funding is somewhat related to the current research security concerns regarding disclosure of gifts and donations to the government. UCORP members noted that it could get complicated quickly, with lack of clarity around legacy funds, unknown sources of funding from a dean or department, and other situations.

Chair Weatherall offered suggestions for next steps, including asking the Academic Council to take up UCSD's resolution and adapt it for systemwide use, or that UCORP could propose a similar resolution for the systemwide Assembly. Members suggested adding a stepwise implementation or the formation of a task force to determine how to implement the resolution.

**Action:** Weatherall will produce a draft letter to Academic Council for UCORP review. Further discussion of this item will be added to UCORP's April agenda.

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

Committee members briefly reported on issues facing their local Committee on Research and other research-related campus news. Updates also included transparency of campus financial situations, especially those facing deficits.

*UC Santa Cruz:* The campus is working on managing its structural deficit. UCSC's rep shared a report of a survey of Senate faculty on the campus research environment.

*UCLA:* The CFO was recently let go after making negative comments in an interview with a student newspaper. Meanwhile, the Senate received its research funding for the year, with a ten percent cut.

*UC Merced:* The Senate research grants are proceeding with additional funds from the VC-R's office. The campus is modeling staggered budget cuts to address a deficit.

*UC Santa Barbara:* UC Santa Barbara's administration is being transparent with the Senate, although the data is opaque. There is a budget transparency web page. The current deficit seems to be about twenty percent, with the primary cause identified as salary increases for both represented and non-represented employees. The filling of open staff positions after pandemic also raised expenditures.

*UC Davis:* UC Davis has a better financial outlook partially due to prior cuts. Although federal funding for 2025 was as good as previous years, there is uncertainty about the future. With increases in teaching expectations for faculty as the student population grows, there is focus on accounting for teaching time and expectations for research productivity.

*UC Riverside:* UC Riverside admitted its largest freshman year class and is still looking to increase in size. Budget cuts were made in prior years, including to staff. The campus is looking at student preparedness and the resources needed for those who arrive less prepared. The new chancellor

asked for information about Senate research grants and the COR found it helpful to have the shared UCORP information from other divisions.

*UC San Diego:* UCSD has a small structural deficit, primarily due to wage increases. The Senate's Committee on Planning and Budget is the locus for those discussions. The local committee discussed the draft Report of the Tribal Lands Workgroup's report, which includes interesting information on massive swaths of land taken away from tribes under false pretenses.

*UC San Francisco:* UCSF budget cuts for next year are unclear, but there have been staff cuts already, including in the Office of Sponsored Research. This is poor timing as researchers need more assistance dealing with the increased federal agency requirements. UCSF's fiscal future is very dependent on what happens with the NIH and indirect cost rates.

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Meeting adjourned: 12:25

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), Padma Rangarajan (Riverside), Ramesh Rao (San Diego), Jeannie Bailey (San Francisco alternate), Dave Valentine (Santa Barbara), Nirvikar Singh (Santa Cruz), Manar Ahmed (Undergraduate Student, UC Merced), 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 & Innovation), Kathleen Erwin (Executive Director, Research Grants Program Office), Agnes Balla (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination), Lourdes DeMattos (Director, Research Policy Analysis and Coordination)