



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)

Minutes of Meeting

3 February 2026

In attendance: Robert Brosnan (Chair), Alyssa Brewer (Vice Chair), Pheng Cheah (Berkeley), Rena Zieve (Davis), Maria Pantelia (Irvine), Richard Desjardins (Los Angeles), Michael Beman (Merced), David Ogelsby (Riverside), Oliver Schmidt (San Diego), Jenny Liu (San Francisco), Barry Giesbrecht (Santa Barbara), Raphael Kudela (Santa Cruz), Kayla Chea (Undergraduate representative), Ahmet Palazoglu (Chair, Academic Council), Cain Diaz (Interim Associate Vice President, Budget Analysis and Planning), Randy Katz (Interim Executive Advisor, Systemwide Research Strategy), Lifang Chiang (Director of Systemwide Research Strategy), Thomas Dugger (Research Strategy Officer), IK Udekwu (Research Strategy Officer), Stefani Leto (Analyst).

Item

I. Consent Calendar and Chair's Announcements

Action: UCPB approved the 3 February agenda and the 5 January minutes

II. Campus Updates

- **Berkeley** – CAPRA has met once and shared concerns that high school students enrolled through Concurrent Enrollment (CE) may take places from undergraduate students and discussed evaluating the fees charged CE students.
- **Davis** – The campus held an annual budget retreat and projected a budget deficit for the next year, followed by a surplus the following year. The administration has decided to move forward with projected worst-case scenario cuts. Salaries and health benefits are increasing more quickly than revenues. The campus has increased its reliance on nonresident tuition over prior years and plans to reduce undergraduate enrollment by 2000 students next year.
- **Irvine** – Following implementation of a new budget model, all units have been asked to share executive summaries with CPB, who will make best practices recommendations to deans. Central campus has no deficit for next year, but schools are receiving reduced budgets based on specific allocations and may consequently have deficits. Shifting the deficits may be a consequence of the new budget model implementation, and CPB hopes to help units identify ways to move forward under the new plan.
- **Los Angeles** - The campus faces a \$400M deficit, and new commitments are being scrutinized by the executive budget action group. The group has identified \$52M in new requests, with some of them already paid while units are in deficit. CPB has been invited to

unit-level budget conferences. CPB sent an interim report to the Chancellor, noting that they had received incomplete budget information and requested additional information. Some information, such as athletic funding and coaching salaries, are not being disclosed. CPB is searching for all unfunded commitments and has been surprised to hear that some salary packages are considered confidential. A report on their findings has gone out to faculty.

- **Merced** – The campus has asked units to prepare for a range of cuts. CAPRA is inviting units to meet with them to discuss how to improve their budgets. A new task force with administration buy-in hopes to temper some of the CFO's approaches. CAPRA hopes to exercise oversight over the use of the McKenzie Scott funds. Reliance on core funds means that some units are experiencing greater effects from the same cutbacks than others, and the administration has noted this disparity as projected decreases in enrollment and shifts of enrollment affect budgets. Free applications to the campus for students rejected from other UCs have not led to increased enrollment. CAPRA plans to analyze staffing to determine if the campus is carrying too many mid-level management positions.
- **Riverside** – The new Chancellor will be installed, and a search for a new chief financial officer has started. The budget model is being completely reviewed. Units have been asked to model various levels of budget cuts.
- **San Diego** – CPB focuses on achieving complete budget transparency. A new CFO appears to be collegial and mindful of shared governance. A budget town hall was well received. The revised budget reflects a much smaller deficit; however, the 2026-27 projected budget shows a larger structural deficit. Proposed cuts will only affect the administration, and the Chancellor proposed lifting the faculty hiring freeze.
- **San Francisco** – The campus appears to have a strategy to shrink administration and staff, but there is no plan for managing faculty in the face of drastic reduction in grant funding. The budget committee is trying to understand leadership's priorities as the campus continues to purchase buildings and build new buildings.
- **Santa Barbara** – A budget transparency website, outlining the current structural deficit (\$70M), was released and has been well-received on campus. There has been discussion about changes to the PFPF and search waivers, and how to evaluate potential Fellows. CPB is focusing on efficiency in facility services and housing.
- **Santa Cruz** – The campus has implemented cuts, but the structural deficit closing is lagging because revenue is less than hoped. The campus has decided to increase summer class enrollment to raise money. Budget authority has been transferred to the CFO. Concerns about shared governance and overstepping into Senate responsibilities have followed this change. A consolidated shared services model has been put into place by the administration, but during the summer and without Senate consultation. Deans are modeling various budget cuts with CPB consultation.

III. Consultation with Senate Leadership

Assembly, Regents, and Council meetings all happened in January.

The governor is signaling his support for higher education in the budget, but the projected \$30M budget deficit may change the proposed budget in the May revise. No capital funds were provided in the draft budget, SB 895, funding science and research, would help if passed.

The UC enrolled more than 300,000 Californian students, higher than ever, and appears to be meeting all other goals set by the previous compact. President Milliken and Board Chair Riley met with legislators.

The Regents unanimously approved their revisions to APM 015-016. Previously, the Academic Council approved the changes, Assembly approved in January and then Regents approved at their January meeting. The process was an example of excellent shared governance and effectiveness by the Senate.

Provost Newman has organized an academic congress on mathematics preparation following a report from UC San Diego reporting gaps in entry-level mathematics preparation and an Institutional Research and Planning (IRAP) examination of how lower-level STEM courses can function as barriers to success in the fields.

The UAW has announced a strike authorization vote for the unit including graduate students. Senate leadership will prepare communications to the faculty to prepare for this possibility.

The Senate has begun discussing UC policies about syllabi following a national discussion about making them public documents as has been done at UNC. The university is facing Congressional investigations demanding this kind of accommodation.

The Senate UCAD report has been endorsed by Council and sent to the president. The steering committee for UCAD Plus will soon send an update letter to Council, and the Senate will be updated about the work of the subcommittees.

IV. Data Requests Update

UCPB discussed their ongoing data requests. UCPB met with UCAD Plus Workgroup Five, following up on a question raised about UC costs for supporting graduate students for teaching, research, fellowships, and financial aid. The committee will send out requests to relevant offices at OP to find data that answers this question.

The committee discussed asking for information from their home campuses for representative student costs, and after robust discussion, proposed requesting costs for graduate students in both chemistry and English. A draft request will be provided for members to use for their requests, and members noted that this may be an area of interest for UCEP. In addition to costs, members wondered how many hours an average TA worked, and proposed asking systemwide HR for benefits costs.

The committee wants to continue its investigation of shared research facilities and AI tools to defray costs of instruction. Letters on these topics will go to the committee for review and then go to Council.

V. Consultation with OP

Associate Vice President Diaz gave UCPB an update on the state budget process. Nothing will be finalized until the May revision. The Budget Office has modeled the \$900M asked for in the budget with all current information about how it is spent. They intend to show the legislature that this amount would support current operations, but workforce cost increases prevent new UC activities. The message to the legislature is that their budget prevents shrinkage at the university, rather than expanding to new opportunities.

Discussion covered increased out of state student enrollment following the compact agreement. The Provost has been clear that if the legislature did not cover the shortfall from replacing out of state students with California residents, enrollment would be cut. State Governmental Relations has been involved in these conversations as well. The UC would match enrollment to numbers the state has paid for.

VI. Self-Supporting Professional Degree Program Proposals

Action: Professor Pantelia will present a review of UC Berkeley's Master of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning; Professor Kudela will review UC Santa Barbara's proposed Master of Engineering and Technology Leadership.

VII. Item Under Review

Action: UCPB will respond to the Systemwide Senate Review of Proposal to Establish a Systemwide Academic Senate Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability. A letter will be circulated for committee input, then sent to Senate leadership.

VIII. Consultation with Office of Research and Innovation

Randy Katz, Interim Executive Advisor, Systemwide Research Strategy, Lifang Chiang, Director of Systemwide Research Strategy, Thomas Duggar, Research Strategy Officer, and IK Udekwa, Research Strategy Officer, joined UCPB to talk about shared research facilities.

This investigation was initiated by the Provost to catalog "significant research facilities" across the UC system. The UC is in a research arms race against other states. Texas has committed to investing \$25B in a computing facility for state universities. Cataloging UC research facilities is an attempt to find out how campuses can partner together to benefit all. Funding will come from federal, state, university and campus investment. The research office is investigating how best to coordinate to get good value while maintaining great research infrastructure.

CITRIS, one of the Cal institutes for science and innovation, just had its 25th anniversary and can serve as a model of shared university and state investment in UC research infrastructure.

While there are clear processes for building on a campus, there appears to be no coordinated planning for research infrastructure. Complicating such planning is that it is extremely expensive and becomes obsolescent at a rapid rate. Computing research turns over every 18 months, and gene sequencing has a high rate of turnover as well.

Action: UCPB agreed to send a letter to Council supporting the effort to catalog research facilities across the UC and support efforts to expand shared research capacity and AI resources

IX. Divisional Funding for Athletics

UCPB reviewed information on UC Berkeley athletics. Faculty at Berkeley have asked for a cap on the subsidy amount from the center to the athletics programs, but the Chancellor has not agreed to the proposed cap. Discussing cuts to athletic subsidies on campus is complicated by campus league agreements. Berkeley now has an athletics task force investigating funding and the impacts on the campus budget.

UCPB members wondered if there are any Division One schools with self-supporting athletics programs. Indiana University was put forward as an example of one that may.

Information from other campuses will help Berkeley faculty communicate to their chancellor. Members shared that their campuses also subsidize athletics. One issue raised through discussion was student fees going to athletics departments. Members shared concern that students may not be aware that they are paying fees to subsidize athletics programs.

The committee agreed to try to find information on athletics funding and student fees for athletics for all campuses. CFO Brostrom will be asked for some information.

The committee adjourned at 3:23.

Minutes prepared by Stefani Leto, Analyst
Attest: Robert Brosnan, Chair