



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET

Minutes of Meeting

03 March, 2026

In attendance: Robert Brosnan (Chair), Alyssa Brewer (Vice Chair), Pheng Cheah (Berkeley), Rena Zieve (Davis), Maria Pantelia (Irvine), Henry Friedman (alternate, Los Angeles), Michael Beman (Merced), Michael Scheibner (alternate, Merced), David Ogelsby (Riverside), Oliver Schmidt (San Diego), Sharona Ben-Haim (alternate, San Diego), Jenny Liu (San Francisco), Barry Giesbrecht (Santa Barbara), Raphael Kudela (Santa Cruz), Jeremy Hourigan (alternate, Santa Cruz), Kayla Chea (Undergraduate representative), Ahmet Palazoglu (Chair, Academic Council), Cain Diaz (Interim Associate Vice President, Budget Analysis and Planning, Stefani Leto (Analyst).

I. Consent Calendar and Chair's Announcements

Action: UCPB approved the March 3, 2026 agenda and the February 3, 2026 minutes.

Committee members reported some challenges obtaining data on graduate student costs from English and Chemistry departments from their home campuses.

II. Consultation with Senate Leadership

Chair of the Academic Council Palazoglu met with UCPB to update them on various issues across the university:

- UC will support the Weiner bill, a California research fund proposal. It faces low odds of passing, but the UAW is in favor, and UC researchers have been sharing their stories as part of a strong advocacy campaign to the legislature.
- The Department of Justice (DOJ) lawsuit against UCLA for alleged acts of anti-Semitism is asking for injunctive relief and damages for individuals and will be a jury trial. It can take two to three years to run its course.
- Council met with Van Williams Chief Procurement Officer, the Office of Systemwide Civil Rights, and a few others, to respond to senate feedback about compliance with federally mandated UC IT Accessibility Policy deadlines. Efforts will be made to facilitate institutional compliance and support, rather than penalizing individual faculty members.
- Leadership and BOARS met with President Milliken about a comprehensive review of enrollment policies as well as college readiness of applicants. BOARS plans substantial interaction with K-12 schools and is creating a roadmap for engagement.
- UC is now out of contract with the American Chemical Society Journal. Conflicts over access for computational research drive this stalemate. The UC does not want to set a precedent of ceding the right for this kind of research.

- Labor unions, including the newly formed one for Public Service Professionals and Student Services Staff, have authorized a strike. The contract was extended in February, and parties are currently in mediation. The Senate representatives on the negotiating team are communicating with the faculty oversight group. Provost Newman has sent out communication and Senate Leadership has as well. If a strike is called, guidance will be issued. Unit 18 lecturers will be out of contract in June.
- Academic Council reviewed the UCPB recommendations about the development of a coordinated system-wide strategy to inventory, share, and invest in research facilities and AI tools across campuses, so that research capacity can be strengthened, duplication could be reduced, and efficiency could be improved. Council endorsed the letter, and it is being forwarded to Provost Newman and the UCAD Plus co-chairs.

In discussion, committee members raised concerns about asynchronous instruction and self-supporting professional graduate programs. Chair Palazoglu suggested that CCGA¹ would attend to instructional concerns and UCPB can focus on any financial impacts of proposed programs. The committee agreed to invite the chair of BOARS to discuss proposed changes to application fees.

III. Item for Systemwide Review

Action: Members decided not to opine on Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Revisions to Senate Bylaw 192 and Senate Regulations 636 and 761.

IV. Campus Updates

TFIR: The Task Force on Investments and Retirement (TFIR) met with the new head of Systemwide HR. Despite years of advocacy and UC Legal becoming involved, the Savings Choice Retirement Option is still not the default for new hires at the UC; it remains the Pension Choice Option. The group continues to take issue with Deloitte's use of a narrow, actuarial method to determine the value of retirement benefits for the Total Remuneration Study. They would rather use a value to employees approach. Both calculations and methodology will be presented to the Regents. The task force would like to preview the UC Benefits survey. HR says they are currently analyzing the data. TFIR members have concerns that the survey will generate inaccurate results and the UC will take action based on it. UC death benefits have held static for years; TFIR is evaluating a proposal to index it to inflation.

HCTF – The Health Care Task force (HCTF) is concerned about evaluating health insurance planning for the UC and TFIR is setting up a workshop to meet with planners involved in the next round of insurance negotiations trying to bring healthcare costs under control. Health care costs previously were based on risk stratification of pharmacy costs. Systemwide HR is using a different model, and HCTF would like to see more data about whether premia models are meeting costs thus far and whether premium structures and rate increases will need to change for the next enrollment year."

ASCOLI – The Academic Council Special Committee on Lab Issue (ASCOLI) reported that the federal labs received full funding in January. The UC has received no response on its application to manage the Frederick National Lab for Cancer Research. Going forward, some lab fees will be reconfigured and renamed, so faculty input will be sought into that process. A

Senate letter from 2008 established that lab fees should be “allocated to research that is related to the missions of the laboratories and emphasizes collaborations between University faculty, staff and students and the research staff of the laboratories,” and defining research that qualifies is an ongoing practice.

UCEAP – Enrollment has been increasing in the UC Education Abroad Program after Covid – about 6000 students. The previous program shortfall was paid for with insurance. A permanent home for the program instead of the current lease program is desired, and various options are being considered, including purchasing and renovating a building.

Davis – CPB has been evaluating units across campus, and they found that the Registrar’s Office has been working on a limited budget so that new cuts will be to personnel. In addition, changes to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid has increased staff workload to the point that they have experimented with approaches such as not answering the phones some days to free staff time.

Merced – The campus budget process is taking place now, with two units already presenting plans. Most cuts involve retiring unfilled staff positions, which will cover between half and two-thirds of the shortfall. Should the proposed series of cuts, seven, five, and three percent, go forward over the next three years, the social sciences and humanities will need to cut their staff by two-thirds. This challenge has sparked dialogue between the Provost and the CFO to analyze the situation to prevent this sort of drastic cut. CPB’s communication with the administration is improving; the committee chair, senate chair, senate vice chair have been meeting with the CFO. The campus plans to buy Helio Campus software for budget office work.

Riverside – The budget committee meetings with various members across campus are drawing to a close. The campus has been running a deficit, covered by carry-forward, for a few years. However, next year it will tip into deficit. Even with a \$5M subsidy, athletics has a \$5M deficit, like Berkeley’s and it would be very hard to cut costs since there are mandated Division One costs. Coaching costs would remain the same if they moved to Division Two. The budget committee pointed out that if athletics will receive a \$10M subsidy, it should be debated in the open.

Santa Barbara – The current big discussion is around Presidential Post Doctoral Fellows (PPFP) and what kind of search to use. There is some concerns about departments leveraging search waivers heavily, so not using open searches for candidates who presumably would rise to the top of an open search.

Santa Cruz – The campus has an ongoing EVC search. Athletics is not a major budget drain. The structural deficit looks worse than the prior estimate. Cost-cutting is focused on not replacing separated faculty. International student and non-resident domestic applications are down. The ratio of intent to enroll students to actual enrollment is also substantially down. Shared governance has been challenging, with an example of highly increased parking rates which will hurt staff.

San Francisco – Faculty are concerned about unbridled AI use since a ChatGPT enterprise version was bought by campus. CPB is making small headway talking with leadership about plans for faculty facing funding challenges.

V. Consultation with OP

Projected revenues for the state continue to outstrip projections. The legislature would like to treat any overflow as one-time funds, but even so, the UC may have opportunities to increase funds received. The Regents have a request before them for one-time outlay for capital projects. Assemblymember Fong authored a letter to legislative leadership requesting that the UC and CSU receive full compact funding. In addition, the UC is asking that its budget be increased beyond the governor's increase. The UC has marshaled advocacy in support of its budget.

Campus faculty will share their stories to support the proposed research bond proceeding in the legislature. The UC is now an official sponsor. Even if the bond is smaller than proposed, decoupling some research from federal support diversifies. The UC is continuing conversation with legislators sponsoring a housing bill about adding student housing. Multiple bills addressing the master plan have been introduced, and the UC is monitoring for potential negative effects on the state.

CFO Brostrom noted that if state revenues are high enough, the Gann limit which forces tax rebates if revenues exceed a certain percentage provides a rare opportunity for the UC to advocate for capital outlay. In addition, the Regents approval of a one percent addition to the formula for the Tuition Stability Plan (TSP) ensures some ongoing funding for capital debt service, at the discretion of the chancellors.

The university has refunded bonds with a \$2B bond issue, at the same time the DOJ sued UCLA for alleged antisemitic acts. An explanation was attached, and the investor community responded positively to the bonds, and the bonds realized \$200M in savings.

Insurance costs continue to rise. The UC uses captive insurance, including Fiat Lux, to step in when the commercial market is either prohibitively expensive or will not offer (areas such as cybersecurity and sexual misconduct). Increasingly, personnel markets, such as medical malpractice and employment practices liability (EPL), are increasingly expensive. Very large settlements in these areas have changed the market. Double-digit increases in premiums in those areas are likely.

A legislative analyst report on UC spending noted that it had outpaced inflation but did note that it was due to enrollment increases. However, the impression the report gives is that UC has spent irresponsibly. In response the OP budget office plans a formal UC budget website to rebut these claims. Also, SGR employees will meet with legislators to reframe budget issues. One suggestion is to fund enrollment growth separately from core costs, and that may be an approach the UC wants to take.

Another LAO recommendation is that the state should pause the nonresident replacement plan. Hold campuses flat at their current nonresident enrollment levels but not replace tuition

losses. They also raised the idea of differential tuition for nonresident students at different campuses, but that would undercut the argument that all UCs provide an excellent education.

Discussion included how much out of state students benefit the state financially by staying in the state after graduation. California benefits from other states' brain drain.

VI. Consultation with Federal Governmental Relations

UCPB members discussed what role faculty has to build relationships with legislators with Associate Vice President, Federal Governmental Relations (FGR), Chris Harrington, and Kent Springfield, Director of Health and Clinical Affairs, FGR. Their office has engaged in extensive outreach and helping legislators in Washington understand how research funding works at a place like the UC. However, party-line voting tends to undermine even the best efforts of UC staff.

Faculty are effective communicators, and UCPB members were urged to work with their campus government relations directors to identify interest areas within districts and have faculty working in those areas be in contact with government officials. If legislators could view faculty experts as sources of expertise and information, that would be positive.

FGR staff is happy to work with faculty who have contact with and are comfortable with federal policymakers. AVP Harrington asked faculty to elevate stories of faculty doing wonderful work in the state.

VII. Self-Supporting Graduate Degree Program Proposals

Committee members discussed two proposed self-supporting professional master's degree proposals, a Master of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (MAIML) from UC Berkeley and a Master of Engineering and Technology Leadership (METL) from UC Santa Barbara. The committee moved both along to the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) with positive reviews.

The committee also assigned two proposed self-supporting professional graduate degree programs for review during its April meeting: a UC San Diego proposed Master of Design degree and a UC Davis Online Master's in Preventative Veterinary Medicine.

VIII. Campus Updates II, New Business

Berkeley – Two issues for CPB. First, there is a change in revenue from continuing enrollment as now departments get less than the previous 50 percent. Campus has implemented a new strategy called The First Things First Charge to address faculty needs highlighted in program reviews. CPB is creating a project dashboard to track different projects. Using different criteria for project prioritization, they will look at supporting the academic research mission, reducing seismic and renewable liabilities, and leveraging external funding sources. There have been identified challenges, including the requirement for research space for active labs. Renovations and existing funding delays impact the timeline between project selection and execution.

San Diego – CPB has requested a higher level of information from administrative counterparts, with formal requests to the Chancellor and several VCs for information. The new Vice Chancellor for Finance will attend committee meetings. The committee hopes to increase communication in both directions.

The committee adjourned at 3:28.

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