UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET

Minutes of Meeting
7 April 2026

In attendance: Robert Brosnan (Chair), Alyssa Brewer (Vice Chair), Pheng Cheah (Berkeley), Rene Zieve (Davis), Maria Pantelia (Irvine), Richard Desjardins (Los Angeles), Michael Beman (Merced), David Ogelsby (Riverside), Oliver Schmidt (San Diego), Barry Giesbrecht (Santa Barbara), Raphael Kudela (Santa Cruz), Kayla Chea (Undergraduate Student Representative), Ahmet Palazoglu (Chair, Academic Council), Susannah Scott (Vice Chair, Academic Council), Seija Virtanen (Director, State Governmental Relations), Nathan Brostrom (Chief Financial Officer), David Voltz (Chair, BOARS), Han-Mi Yoon-Wu (Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director, Undergraduate Admissions), Stefani Leto (Analyst).

I. Consent Calendar

Action: UCPB approved the 7 April, 2026 agenda and the 3 March 2026 minutes.

II. Chair's Announcements

Health Care Task Force (HCTF) meeting schedule updated; they will have a retreat in November.

III. Consultation with Senate Leadership

Academic Council Chair Palazoglu and Vice Chair Scott provided an overview of current issues:

- The United Auto Workers (UAW) contract now covers academic employees and research and public service professionals (RPSPs) and student services staff (PSSS). These agreements may have implications for PIs, as they may also hire members of the two additional units. Provost Newman sent a letter in March to faculty about the effects of the new contracts. The UC is moving toward a unified scale for TAs and GSRs by 2029.
- The available pool of graduate student employees will be affected by increasing costs of graduate employees, and the reduction in class size for graduate students.
- Chair Palazoglu highlighted challenges to faculty from increased labor costs and fewer graduate student employees. The Regents are responsible for charting a course that allows the UC to retain its R1 status. The governor appointed new members to the board and reappointed two current members.
- UC representatives participated in the legislative day for the Intersegmental Committee of Academic Senates (ICAS); they met with Assemblymember Alvarez's legislative director, and

Senator Sacha Rene Perez's chief of staff, and Assemblymember Mark Berman and his legislative director. Among the topics discussed were STEM pathways for high school students, basic needs issues, and a common course numbering initiative. They also met with the Assembly Committee on Higher Education consultants and talked about the proposed changes to the Master Plan. A comprehensive review of the Master Plan would be better than piecemeal attempts to change it via degree programs.

- The upcoming Assembly of the Academic Council will hold votes to confirm the proposed Vice Chair of the Academic Council and ratify the Oliver Johnson Award nominees.
- The UCAD Plus Task Force subgroups are readying their final recommendations. Senate leadership met with its administrative counterpart, the Administrative Transformation Initiative led by Nathan Brostrom and Rachael Nava. The group is developing recommendations around revenue generation, restructuring, and reimagining administrative tasks.

  - ➢ UCPB updated leadership on their work gathering information about campus-level athletics program funding, and agreed to send their report to the Chair and Vice Chair.

IV. Items for Systemwide Review

UCPB declined to comment on the Systemwide Senate Review Tribal Lands Workgroup Report.

V. Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Program Reviews

1. **UCSD Master of Design**

   UCPB discussed the lead reviewer's report, and all agreed that the proposal had high academic quality. The committee had two concerns that they elevated to CCGA in a letter: one, that the program does not appear to be self-supporting within three years, as required by the Compendium, and that no explicit provision was made for salaries for any faculty hired by the program should it end.

2. **UC Davis Online Master's in Preventative Veterinary Medicine**

   Committee members agreed to recommend approval of this proposal with suggestions that an alternate name be considered to maintain a distinction from the state-supported in person Master's in Preventative Veterinary Medicine and prevent any diminishment the current program's reputation. In addition, they suggested monitoring student preparation and performance for both programs to gauge whether the online program impacted the in person one.

   In addition, UCPB expressed some concern about faculty workload as the program plans to have faculty teach on overload. They suggested analyzing teaching loads as part of the three-year program review. A letter approving the proposal and sharing those concerns will be sent to CCGA.

3. **UCLA Master of Population Data Science** will be reviewed at the next UCPB meeting.

VI. Consultation with OP

Seija Virtanen, Director, State Governmental Relations, noted that the state budget will not move forward until the governor's May Revise. Updated revenue projections should be released by the end of this month and will provide more information about the amount of funding available to either fund the governor's budget or provide other funding. Currently, the state revenue increase is about $49B, which will go to legislatively mandated school funding and healthcare costs. The state has a projected future deficit exceeding $20B a year in 2028-29. President Milliken spoke with legislators about UC budget and other issues during the March hearings. Budget hearings will resume in May.

Assemblymember Fong's letter supporting full compact funding for the UC and CSU has received about 48 legislator's signatures and has gone to legislative leadership. There has been a high support for the budget campaign from the UCAN effort. "UC Day" is this month, where representatives from all ten campuses go to Sacramento to highlight the work done at their campuses.

The UC is in support of three proposed measures: a housing bill, representative Weiner's multibillion-dollar research bill, and a proposed bond measure. It appears state revenues will pass the Gann limit, and the legislature will have to decide what to do with the excess revenue, which can be used for one-time capital spending.

The relatively positive news from the state is offset by a bleak outlook on the federal side. The Trump administration will likely continue its attacks on universities and research and student funding. The United States now publishes fewer articles in top journals than Chine and the EU.

The UC is working to maintain liquidity to help campuses with the volatility of federal funding for grants. Borrowing from STIP to put into UCRP has been productive, but the pension is close to 90 percent funded, so this year there will not be STIP borrowing. In addition, MOP funding will be from outside sources to preserve liquidity and because the uptake on MOP has been high. Thus, funding will be tied to an index and be more salable.

In addition, the UC is looking at the possibility of self-insuring for dental coverage. The current insurer, Delta, and coverage is low and dropping. Other firms would be the third-party administrator (TPA), and if it works well, the UC may investigate it for other health benefits. Because covering represented employees Involves UC Health, UC Finance, and HR, it is a complicated path. CFO Brostrom foresees continuing increases not only for UC Health (for which we are both payer and provider) and Kaiser.

Inflation will affect all aspects of the UC, as will the cost of fuel and supply chair interruptions because of the war on Iran. The university has enough reserves to provide some cushion. Inflation on goods and services will impact the medical centers the most.

VII. Consultation with BOARS and Admissions Office

Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director of Undergraduate Admissions Han Mi Yoon-Wu and Board of Admissions and Relations with Schools (BOARS) Chair David Volz gave UCPB an overview of undergraduate admissions application fee pricing and fee waiver structure as background based on the committee's interest.

AVP Yoon-Wu appreciated the interest shown by UCPB. The traditional referral process allows campuses to reach out to eligible students who were not admitted to any campus. Historically, that has proved ineffective in sparking student interest in the UC campus to which they did not apply. An early referral process was set up with two campuses, Merced and Riverside in 2025, and Santa Cruz joined in 2026. The campuses invite students to apply in December, waiving the application fee, adding more than 12,000 applicants for each campus.

The UC wants to keep application fees in line with comparator universities. On many campuses, application fees do not cover the costs of managing the application review process, and sometimes the monies go to the central campus fund, not the admission office. In addition, increasing application numbers without considering the yield rate of students accepting offers to enroll would be resource expenditures without results. Having one fee cover all campuses would harm those getting bigger numbers of applications. In addition, campuses getting fewer applications would then receive many more, without additional funding. The early referral program addresses the concerns for campuses interested in growing their applicant pools without over burdening admissions offices at the other campuses.

VIII. Athletics

UCPB will finish collecting data on campus athletic revenues and expenditures and create a chart, following the example from UC San Diego, to attach to a report. This report will be sent to Senate Leadership, who will share it with CFO Brostrom and other administrators. The report will present approaches to athletics funding and their pros and cons. Chair Brosnan shared a draft of the proposed report, and the committee discussed situations on their own campuses. A template for requesting information will be distributed so that members who have not yet gotten responses from their home campus can use it. Once the report is drafted, it will be circulated to the committee for feedback prior to elevation.

IX. Campus Updates

Davis: The campus projects a deficit for the coming year followed by a surplus, although it depends on state and other funding. The CPB has revised a budget questionnaire to Faculty Executive Committees (FEC) in order to focus on units' responses to mandated budget cuts. They hope to socialize the best ideas for money saving as well as note ideas that have not worked in order to inform units across campus.

Los Angeles: A structural deficit on campus is exacerbated by subsidies to the athletics department and IT overruns. The former CFO alleged budget mismanagement, and after his departure, the interim CFO has been working with UCOP to audit campus finances. The campus expects a $220M deficit this year. Interactions between the Senate and the CFOs office are much more positive.

Merced: The campus budget remains challenging, but communication has improved. Budget reductions this year will come through leaving open positions unfilled. Enrollment management has been in deficit but has a new manager who eliminated some wasteful spending. The budget committee now has a good working relationship with the CFO who has provided detailed budget information and increased transparency. Some joint Senate-Administration workgroups have been stood up on the budget and strategic planning. Layoffs are likely although no across-the-board reductions are planned; the focus will be on strategic ones.

Riverside: Interviews have started for the Vice Chancellor of Administration/CFO position. Units have presented their budgets and advocated for how they align with the campus strategic plan to the budget review committee, and the Chancellor will respond to them.

San Diego: first meeting with new VCFA. Seems cooperative, giving lots of data to CPB, which will begin planning in the summer for next year. UAW contracts being discussed on campus. Special meeting with the Chancellor where two new hires, Directors of AI and Engagement were announced. This following a discussion about increasing administration hiring. Administrative positions are not universally announced but they are advertised as staff positions that are directors within an office – they report to Deans. Roughly $30M deficit projected.

Santa Barbara: The campus has started the hiring process for a new CFO. Because of the enrollment cap, the idea of an off-campus facility which could be used for coursework and events to facilitate research activities in the community may be a source of revenue generation. This facility can also serve as a way to increase enrollment without having to negotiate new student number agreements.

Santa Cruz: New CPEVC was hired from Berkeley and will start in January. The latest financial projections indicate that the fiscal deficit will close in 2028 and then go back into deficit, but that projection does not include the latest changes in represented salaries. Parking rates will steadily rise 140 percent over the next ten years. No other sources of revenue were announced. The current deficit is roughly $100M, which will become a $50M deficit in 2030. The campus plans to address the deficit by performing a division assessment of the effect of reducing current faculty by 15 percent and increased availability of student housing, which might facilitate greater out of state student numbers. Santa Cruz receiving low rankings by outside ranking bodies is lowering the number of applications.

The committee adjourned at 3:37.

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