UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Academic Senate

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET**

**Minutes of Meeting**
October 6, 2026

**In attendance:** Alyssa Brewer (Chair), Rena Zieve (Vice Chair), Ilan Adler (Alternate, Berkeley), Prasad Naik (Davis), Miles Coolidge (Irvine), Andrea Kasko (Los Angeles), Victor Muñoz (Merced), Liz Przybylski (Riverside), Sharona Ben-Haim (San Diego), Torsten Wittman (Alternate, San Francisco), Norah Dunbar (Santa Barbara), Raphael Kudela (Santa Cruz), Kayla Chea (Undergraduate representative), Sameera Pokle (Graduate representative), Seija Virtanen (Associate Director, State Budget Relations), Stefani Leto (Analyst),

## I. Consent Calendar

***Action***: UCPB approved the October 7, 2026 UCPB Agenda

## II. Leadership Update

Chair Brewer summarized key issues discussed at the recent Academic Council meeting, including threats to federal research funding, increased federal oversight of grants, and ongoing litigation affecting UC. She also highlighted significant budget pressures facing UC, including rising health care and labor costs, as well as enrollment growth that has outpaced state funding and faculty hiring. Other developments included proposed state investment in scientific and health research and the continued expansion of UC's health system.

## III. Introductions and Chair's Priorities

Chair Brewer outlined UCPB's priorities for the year, including federal research funding and regulatory challenges; state funding, enrollment, and the development of a new budget compact; and systemwide budget pressures associated with labor costs, graduate education, health care, and deferred maintenance. Other areas of interest include shared governance in budget planning, intercampus course sharing, and athletics costs.

## IV. Assignments

**Action**: UCPB members volunteered to represent UCPB on the Task Force on Investments and Retirement (TFIR): the Academic Senate Committee on Lab Issues (ASCOLI): the Health Care Task Force (HCTF); and the UC Education Abroad Program

## V. Items Under Review

**Action:** UCPB assigned reviewers to items for systemwide review for discussion at the November meeting.

## VI. Consultation with OP

Seija Virtanen, Associate Director, State Budget Relations, provided an overview of UC's state budget and the state budget process. She reported on recent funding adjustments and one-time allocations and discussed UC's preparations for a new funding compact with the incoming governor. UC is exploring a structure that would distinguish core operating funding from enrollment growth funding.

The committee discussed broader financial pressures facing the University, including rising health care and labor costs, retirement funding, and the implications of the Total Renumeration Study. Members also raised questions about the growing costs of artificial intelligence and online education.

## VII. Self-Supporting Graduate Degree Program Proposals:

***Action*:** UCPB members volunteered to review proposals for discussion in November.

## VIII. Campus Updates

Members report on budget and planning news from their divisions. Common concerns included structural deficits, enrollment-related revenue pressures, faculty hiring constraints, deferred maintenance, and the development of new campus budget models. Several campuses are reassessing resource allocation approaches and considering strategies to improve long-term financial sustainability.

Members also discussed the role of divisional planning and budget committees in campus decision-making. Some reported improvements in budget transparency and earlier consultation with administrators, while others identified continuing challenges in obtaining reliable financial information and ensuring meaningful Senate participation in budget planning. Riverside reported using UCPB's Best Practices for Senate Involvement in Campus Budget Planning to inform budget discussions and improve communication with campus administrators.

Additional issues included the financial implications of UC Health operations, federal research funding uncertainties, athletics expenditures, and the costs of artificial intelligence. Members also noted challenges associated with staff recruitment and retention, housing affordability, and the effects of budget constraints on academic programs.

UCPB's graduate and undergraduate student representatives raised concerns about course availability, access to teaching assistant appointments, affordability, housing, and student financial aid.

The committee adjourned at 4:00.

Minutes prepared by Stefani Leto, Analyst
Attest: Alyssa Brewer, Chair