



Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Assembly of the
Academic Senate
Faculty Representative,
UC Board of Regents
Academic Senate

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March 9, 2026

Katherine S. Newman
Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs

UCAD Plus Workgroup Co-Chairs

Re: UCPB Recommendations on Shared Research Infrastructure and AI Resources

Dear Provost Newman and UCAD Plus Workgroup Co-Chairs:

On behalf of the Academic Council, I am pleased to transmit the attached recommendations from the University Committee on Planning and Budget ([UCPB](#)) regarding development of a coordinated, systemwide strategy to inventory, share, and strategically invest in core research facilities, major equipment, and artificial intelligence (AI) tools.

UCPB's recommendations respond to ongoing funding instability and emphasize preserving research capacity, reducing unnecessary duplication, and improving efficiency across UC campuses. The committee calls for continuation and institutionalization of current cataloging efforts, including creation of a searchable and regularly updated database of shared facilities and AI resources, as well as consideration of mechanisms to lower financial and administrative barriers to intercampus access.

The Council found the proposal to be thoughtful and timely. Members noted its alignment with discussions underway with the UCAD Plus Task Force and agreed that the recommendations could inform that work. The Council also observed that the [report](#) of the Academic Senate's Workgroup on Artificial Intelligence emphasizes AI infrastructure needs and investment principles that complement the systemwide coordination goals articulated by UCPB.

We appreciate your leadership on these issues and hope the committee's recommendations will be useful as discussions about planning for the future continue.

Sincerely,

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

cc: Academic Council
Senate Division Executive Directors
Senate Executive Director Lin
Chief of Staff Beechem
Senior Strategic Advisor Sheean-Remotto
Strategic Advisor Camacho



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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)
Robert Brosnan
rjbrosnan@ucdavis.edu

February 9, 2026

Ahmet Palazoglu
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Core Facilities Inventory

Dear Ahmet,

During its February meeting, UCPB discussed possible benefits of intercampus coordination and sharing of facilities and resources. The committee was fortunate to consult with colleagues from the Research and Innovation Office about a database of research facilities at the UC.

The committee believes that, considering the unprecedented instability in research funding the University is experiencing, and after years of de-funding by the State of California, UC needs to focus on value around research capacity while maintaining faculty access to world-class or unique facilities and resources.

Randy Katz, currently a Special Advisor to the Research Office at the UC Office of the President (UCOP), provided much information to the committee. However, he is a returned emeritus professor and has a limited tenure in the office.

1. We recommend that UCOP name a point person who can facilitate conversation among campuses to identify/facilitate the sharing of resources. The needs of this project may require more than one dedicated staff member. This person would need to create a systemwide vision for the research structure needed for the 21st century, and answer the following questions:
 - Where does it make sense to duplicate facilities/services on each campus?
 - Where should UC look to pool resources to create a limited number of regional but world-class resources?

- How is research infrastructure paid for, maintained, and kept up-to-date?
- How do we lower barriers to sharing resources between campuses (including creation of an online, searchable, living database of available facilities/services, applications/target disciplines, and major equipment)? How do we make it easier for faculty/administrators to identify available resources, and how do we make intercampus resource sharing function seamlessly?

2. UC has examples of shared research centers, like The Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS) and The Banatao Institute at UC Berkeley. But there are benefits to extending shared research practices beyond what the UC currently has. Benefits of shared research facilities include:

- Maintaining research access for faculty on campuses where core facilities/services/equipment is not available or is eliminated due to budget cuts.
- Allowing individual campuses to better prioritize research cuts and research investments by accounting for available access to duplicative resources at neighboring campuses or prioritizing preservation of unique facilities/resources.
- Pooling of resources provides opportunities to create larger and world-class quality facilities (instead of multiple smaller middle-tier facilities) that may offer the potential for better data quality, increased competitiveness for grants, economies of scale, and synergistic scholarly interactions between faculty co-users.
- Increasing UC-industry interactions by allowing industry recharge access to UC core facilities. This will require MOU's related to IP protection and liability. In addition to potential revenue generating benefits, these interactions might be helpful for UC students to gain research experience in a corporate environment and build relationships to increase employment opportunities for UC students. Increased UC-industry interactions may also have opportunities for increased sponsored research agreements with faculty and possibly development opportunities.

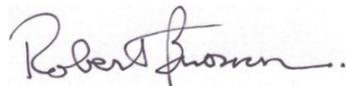
3. In addition to shared research facilities, UCOP should identify AI tools for teaching and research. For this effort, UCOP should:

- Inventory instructional AI tools used on individual campuses and create a searchable and updatable database of capabilities/uses
- Allow cross-campus licensing and sharing of local AI tools, and create a mechanism to compensate UC developers for valuable and highly utilized tools

- Identify commercial tutoring/instructional AI products with utility across campuses and license and distribute from the UCOP. This will allow UC to take advantage of its enormous economies-of-scale to generate systemwide savings (as opposed to each campus or school licensing tools on its own).
- Develop training modules for educators and researchers to effectively utilize available AI tools.

4. Finally, UCOP should endorse the Office of Research & Innovation Research Strategy Group's plan outlined to the UCPB (attached). The Office of Research should also consider including the other objectives outlined in Points 1-3 above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Brosnan." The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Robert Brosnan
Chair

Attachment
cc: UCPB

UC Research & Innovation Research Strategy Group

UC Committee on Planning and Budget

February 3, 2026

UCOP Research & Innovation was tasked with conducting a rapid assessment of campus core research facilities—generally defined as centralized, shared research infrastructure which provides investigators with access to **specialized instruments, technologies, and services**, along with **expert consultation**. An initial search of “research core facility” websites yielded a preliminary count of **445 research core facilities** (and counting). A prototype web inventory, sortable by category, disciplines, location and service capabilities, is **demonstrated here**.

A follow-up, voluntary survey of core facilities (distributed via campus VCRs and designed to minimize reporting burden) found that about **one-quarter** anticipate federal funding loss, **about half** anticipate no loss, and **about one-quarter** are unsure. Among facilities anticipating or uncertain about losses, respondents most often describe operational impacts as **reduced service capacity** and/or **access**, driven by staffing constraints, reduced utilization and recharge revenue, higher rates, and deferred equipment maintenance or upgrades.

To establish a **searchable database**, UC should develop and sustain a systemwide, **web-based research core facilities management system**. Completing this work credibly, and on a realistic timeline, will require an agreed-upon governance and implementation strategy. UC should consider establishing a systemwide oversight body (e.g., a UCOP-led task force) with a **clear charge, deliverables, and milestones** to standardize definitions and scope and to coordinate cross-campus sharing of facilities, instrumentation, and staffing. A more comprehensive and usable database will require a **consistent data-collection framework**, including common fields for service capabilities and disciplinary domains; staff expertise; recharge/cost-recovery models and service rates (including identification of outdated rates and under-recovered costs); user base (internal, external, and industry); and standardized usage, financial, and impact metrics to support **reporting and decision-making**.

Moving from a searchable directory to a more supportive **research infrastructure “network”** will require governance-backed communications and adoption support: a **systemwide portal/landing page and communications and outreach**, supported by shared templates/agreements (e.g., Berkeley Research Innovation Commons-style approaches) and communities of practice, so faculty and administrators can reliably discover and access facilities across UC. Systemwide efforts to advance research infrastructure should align with **campus academic and research priorities**, particularly where shared core facilities can advance team-science collaborations and build capacity for research in emerging areas of science and technology.