



# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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

Academic Senate

Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

[senate.universityofcalifornia.edu](https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu)

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Lawrence Livermore  
Los Alamos

December 17, 2025

Katherine S. Newman  
Provost and Executive Vice President  
University of California

Re: Approval of Simple Name Change for the UCD School of Veterinary  
Medicine

Dear Provost Newman:

In accordance with Section III.B.2 of the [Universitywide Review Processes For Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units](#) (the “Compendium”), the Academic Council has approved the UC Davis division’s proposal to change the name of the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to the University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine.

The Senate’s three Compendium Committees ([CCGA](#), [UCEP](#), and [UCPB](#)) are also unanimous in support of UC Davis’s proposal. Their supporting memos are attached.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Ahmet Palazoglu  
Chair, Academic Council

cc: Academic Council  
UCD Division Chair Russ  
UCD Senate Division Executive Director Arevalo  
Institutional Research and Academic Planning Analyst Procello  
Senate Executive Director Lin



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COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

Partho Ghosh, Chair

[pghosh@ucsd.edu](mailto:pghosh@ucsd.edu)

December 11, 2025

Ahmet Palazoglu  
Academic Senate Chair

Dear Chair Palazoglu,

Via email, CCGA voted on the proposal from the Davis division to change the name of the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to the University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine. The proposal was approved 8-0-1.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions for you.

Sincerely,

Partho Ghosh  
CCGA Chair

cc: Academic Senate Vice Chair Scott  
Academic Senate Executive Director Lin  
Academic Senate Assistant Director LaBriola  
CCGA Members



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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)

Catherine Sugar, Chair

[csugar@ucla.edu](mailto:csugar@ucla.edu)

November 12, 2025

Ahmet Palazoglu  
Chair, UC Academic Council

RE: Proposal to Change the Name of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to the University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine

Dear Ahmet,

The University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP) conducted an expedited review by email of the proposal to change the name of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to the University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine. The members have endorsed the proposed name change.

UCEP appreciates the opportunity to comment on this matter. Please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Catherine Sugar, Chair  
UCEP



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Academic Senate

Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)

Robert Brosnan  
[rjbrosnan@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rjbrosnan@ucdavis.edu)

December 10, 2025

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Ahmet Palazoglu  
Chair, Academic Council

RE: Simple Name Change, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

Dear Ahmet,

The University Committee on Planning and Budget discussed the proposed simple name change for the Davis School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) via email. The transformative gift from Joan and Sandy Weill will build a new small animal hospital and support research. This gift does not entail any programmatic change to the SVM or impose any restrictions on academic inquiry or freedoms.

Committee members endorse changing the name of the School to the University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine and look forward to how this gift will help the School maintain its premier status.

Sincerely,

Robert Brosnan  
Chair

cc: UCPB



GARY S. MAY  
Chancellor

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR  
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8558  
TELEPHONE: (530) 752-2065

December 5, 2025

Katherine S. Newman  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs  
UC Office of the President  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

Ahmet Palazoglu  
Chair, Systemwide Academic Senate  
University of California  
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Proposal to Change the Name of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to the  
University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine

Dear Provost Newman and Chair Palazoglu:

On behalf of the University of California, Davis, I am pleased to forward the enclosed proposal for a name change to an academic unit. The UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine proposes to change its name to University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine.

The UC Davis Academic Senate reviewed, discussed, and endorsed the proposed name change consistent with applicable systemwide and campus policies. Prior to the divisional Senate's endorsement, the proposal was also unanimously endorsed by the Faculty Executive Committee of the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Enclosed is a set of supporting documents for your review. If you endorse this proposed change, we respectfully request that the proposal be placed on the December 17 meeting agenda of the Academic Council for final approval.

Our donor has respectfully requested final approval of the school's name change from all parties involved prior to the end of the calendar year to allow him to begin making his philanthropic donations prior to the year's end.

Provost Newman, Chair Palazoglu  
December 5, 2025  
Page 2

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary S. May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" and last name "May" clearly distinguishable.

Gary S. May  
Chancellor

/JLT

c: Monica Lin, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate  
Edwin Avevalo, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate  
Kadee Russ, Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate  
Mary Croughan, UC Davis Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor  
Mark Stetter, Dean, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine



DAVIS DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
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December 4, 2025

**Ahmet Palazoglu**  
Chair, Academic Council

**RE:** Proposal to Change the Name of the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to the University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine

Dear Ahmet,

The proposal to change the name of the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, to the University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine was forwarded to Davis Division of the Academic Senate for review by the Faculty Executive Committee of the School of Veterinary Medicine. It included a favorable recommendation from the School of Veterinary Medicine Faculty Executive Committee.

The Davis Division reviewed, discussed and endorsed the proposed name change as per PPM 200-20, Establishment or Revision of Academic Units. This letter communicates the Davis Division's favorable review of the name change proposal.

The Davis Division appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn Niles Russ".

Kathryn Niles Russ, Ph.D.  
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate  
Professor of Economics  
University of California, Davis

c: Gary May, Chancellor  
Mary Croughan, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor  
Karl Engelbach, Associate Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor  
Jason Stewart, Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Office of the Provost

Edwin M. Arevalo, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate  
Monica Lin, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate  
Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director, Systemwide Academic Senate  
Pamela Lein, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, School of Veterinary Medicine  
Mark Stetter, Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine





SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
944 Garrod Drive, Suite 2045  
DAVIS, CA 95616  
Tel (530) 752-1361  
[mdstetter@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mdstetter@ucdavis.edu)

DATE: November 12, 2025

TO: Dr. Kadee Russ, Divisional Chair, Academic Senate

FROM: Dr. Pamela J. Lein, Chair  
School of Veterinary Medicine Faculty Executive Committee

CC: Mark Stetter, Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine  
Edwin Arevalo, Executive Director, UC Davis Academic Senate

SUBJECT: Proposal to change the name of the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to the *University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine*

The School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM) Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) met on Monday November 10, 2025 in a special meeting called by the committee Chair on Thursday November 6, 2025 to discuss the proposed change in school name. Of the 8 committee members, 7 were available to attend the meeting. Prior to the meeting, the SVM Dean, Mark Stetter, distributed relevant documents to the SVM FEC members for review.

FEC Chair Lein invited Dean Stetter and the SVM Assistant Dean of Advancement, Leeann Jansen, to join the November 10 meeting to answer FEC questions about the basis for the proposed school name change. Following the approximately 50-min Q&A session, Dean Stetter and Assistant Dean Jansen were excused from the committee meeting and the FEC members held a closed meeting for approximately 10 min. During the closed-door discussion, the committee unanimously agreed to endorse this proposal: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstained (out of 8 eligible faculty members). FEC Chair Lein followed up with the 8<sup>th</sup> FEC member who was unable to attend the meeting because of teaching responsibilities, and they also strongly supported the proposal.

The proposal to change the school name is based on significant philanthropic merit. Joan and Sanford (Sandy) Weill are generously gifting \$120,000,000 to further the mission and vision of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. This is the largest philanthropic gift to date for a school or college of veterinary medicine in the world and will support education and service through the construction of the new small animal hospital (\$80,000,000) and the school's research mission (\$40,000,000). In recognition of this historic and transformational gift, which will not entail any programmatic or curricular change, the SVM FEC strongly supports the proposal for a simple name change. \*

For decades, the Joan and Sandy Weill have been true ambassadors of research and innovation in the pursuit of improving the lives of all beings. They have also been strong supporters of the UC Davis SVM, giving their first gift in 2018 to support the Veterinary Center for Clinical Trials (VCCT). Through their advocacy and support of clinical trials, the Weill's have championed the idea that collaboration across veterinary and human medicine is essential to unlocking new treatments and improving health outcomes in both animals and humans. As a result, in 2023, the Weill's established the *Joan Weill Translational Research Endowment* for \$5 million (including matching gifts) in support of the VCCT.

In addition to this new \$120,000,000, the Weill's have also previously given an additional \$3,000,000 to the School of Veterinary Medicine. Furthermore, the Weill's have been generous donors to other UC Campuses including giving more than \$390,000,000 to UC San Francisco and UC Berkeley. In total this means, the Weill's have given over half a billion dollars to further the vision and values of the University of California.

\*According to the UC Academic Senate Compendium, Section III.B.2 Name Changes of Schools and Colleges, a simple name change does not involve a reconstitution. Typically, a simple name change is sought to accommodate popular and accepted changes in nomenclature of an academic field or discipline. It is a change that is not associated with any substantive modification to curricular offerings or resource needs of academic programs and units.

## Conclusion

In recognition of the Weill's extraordinary philanthropic generosity, it is strongly recommended that the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine be officially named: "University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Well School of Veterinary Medicine"

The Weill's dedication to UC Davis and to the broader scientific and academic community has and continues to improve the lives of countless students, scientists, researchers and veterinarians. This gift positions the school to make an even greater impact, for animals, people and for our planet.

On behalf of the SVM FEC, I respectfully submit this proposal for consideration and approval. I also kindly request that all parties maintain the highest level of confidentiality throughout this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Pamela J. Lein".

Pamela J. Lein, PhD  
Distinguished Professor of Neurotoxicology  
Chair, School of Veterinary Medicine Faculty Executive Committee

Attachment:

- UC Compendium. Simple Name Change. Accelerated Review. Section III.B.2



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DATE November 12, 2025

TO Dr. Kadee Russ, UC Davis Academic Senate

FROM Mark Stetter, Dean, School of Veterinary Medicine

SUBJECT Simple Name Change/Title Change Review: Renaming of the University of California, Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to the *University of California, Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine*

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### Introduction

Joan and Sanford (Sandy) Weill are generously gifting \$120,000,000 to further the mission and vision of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. This is the largest philanthropic gift to date for a school or college of veterinary medicine in the world and will support education and service through the construction of the new small animal hospital (\$80,000,000) and our research mission (\$40,000,000).

In collaboration with Chancellor Gary May, and after a thorough campus consultation process, I am writing to propose renaming the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine to the *University of California Davis Joan and Sanford I. Weill School of Veterinary Medicine*. This naming has been approved by University of California President, James B. Milliken.

This name change will not entail any programmatic or curricular change. Therefore, and after consultation with the Office of the President and consistent with the UC Academic Senate Compendium\*, it has been determined that this naming qualifies as a "simple name change".

In recognition of this historic and transformational gift, this request for a simple name change is respectfully submitted for consideration and approval. This change will not have any impact on the existing curriculum or service delivery.

### Brief Bio

Joan and Sanford "Sandy" Weill are a remarkable couple whose shared commitment to leadership, philanthropy, and community service have made a lasting impact across education, healthcare, the arts and social justice. Sandy is a pioneering figure in American finance, best known as the architect behind Citigroup, where his innovative vision helped shape the modern financial services industry. Prior to his retirement, Sandy served as chief executive officer of Citigroup until 2003 and as chairman of the board until 2006. During his tenure with Citigroup, he orchestrated the 1998 merger between Citicorp and the Travelers Group to form Citigroup.

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\*According to the UC Academic Senate Compendium, Section III.B.2 Name Changes of Schools and Colleges, a simple name change does not involve a reconstitution. Typically, a simple name change is sought to accommodate popular and accepted changes in nomenclature of an academic field or discipline. It is a change that is not associated with any substantive modification to curricular offerings or resource needs of academic programs and units.

In 2017, Forbes included Sandy on its list of the World's 100 Greatest Living Business Minds. In 2014, Sandy was named to CNBC's First 25, a list of 25 people with the greatest influence on business during the preceding quarter century. He was the recipient of Financial World Magazine's CEO of the Year Award in 1998 and received the same honor from Chief Executive Magazine in 2002.

Joan is a dedicated philanthropist and community leader and has been equally influential through her work championing health, the performing arts and early childhood education. Together, they exemplify the power of combining business acumen with a deep sense of social responsibility.

The Weills' strong commitment to civic duty is reflected in their extensive volunteerism and service on nonprofit boards. Joan is a member of the board of overseers at UCSF, board member of the Lang Lang International Music Foundation, past president and board member of Citymeals-On-Wheels, and former executive committee member of Women in Need. Joan provided leadership as Chair and Chair Emerita of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Foundation, where she has helped expand access to dance education.

Sandy has served in numerous volunteer leadership roles as well including Chairman of Carnegie Hall, Past Chair and current member of UCSF Executive Council, Member of the Board of Visitors at UC Berkeley, and as a trustee of Cornell University, his alma mater. Sandy founded and served as Chairman for the National Academy Foundation, a national education nonprofit, that brings schools and businesses together to better prepare students of all backgrounds, reflecting their lifelong belief that education is the cornerstone of opportunity.

Philanthropy stands at the heart of Joan and Sandy's shared legacy. Their generosity has touched countless lives through transformative gifts to medical research, higher education and community programs. Among their most significant contributions are those to: Weill Cornell Medicine, UCSF Weill Institute for Neurosciences, Weill Cancer Hub East and Weill Cancer Hub West. Joan and Sandy are the recipients of the 2009 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy, 2017 Kennedy Center Award for the Human Spirit, and 2022 Forbes 400 Lifetime Achievement Award for Philanthropy.

#### **Engagement with UC Davis, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine (SVM)**

The Weill's were introduced to the SVM and the role veterinary medicine plays in advancing both animal and human health in January 2018, when their beloved dog Angel, an 11-year-old Bichon Frise, was diagnosed with lymphoma. Angel's lymphoma was in an advanced stage, and she was enrolled in a veterinary clinical trial at SVM. The trial enhanced Angel's quality of life while also contributing valuable insights to research that may have benefited other dogs in the future.

Due to the wonderful care and treatment of Angel by Dr. Robert Rebhun and his team, the Weill's made their first gift in support of the Veterinary Center for Clinical Trials (VCCT) in 2018. Through their advocacy and support of clinical trials, they have championed the idea that collaboration across veterinary and human medicine is essential to unlocking new treatments and improving health outcomes in both animals and humans. As a result, in 2023, the Weills established the *Joan Weill Translational Research Endowment* for \$5 million (including matching gifts) in support of the VCCT. For decades, the Weill's have been true ambassadors of research and innovation in the pursuit of improving the lives of all beings. Dedicating their time, expertise, and resources to advancing science and training the next generation of world-class minds.

Joan and Sandy also embody the spirit of volunteer leadership. Sandy has been an active and engaged volunteer for UC Davis, serving on the UC Davis Chancellor's Board of Advisors since 2014, as a commencement speaker for the Graduate School of Management, and hosting UC Davis students and faculty at their home, among many other engagements throughout the university over the years.

In addition to this new \$120,000,000, the Weill's have also previously given an additional \$3,000,000 to the School of Veterinary Medicine. Furthermore, the Weill's have been generous donors to other UC Campuses including giving more than \$390,000,000 to UC San Francisco and UC Berkeley. In total this means, the Weill's have given over half a billion dollars to further the vision and values of the University of California.

**Accelerated Review**

The School of Veterinary Medicine has an immediate need for expanded teaching and clinical space within the Small Animal Hospital. A nationwide shortage of veterinarians, combined with a steadily increasing patient demand, has created significant pressure on our existing facilities. The proposed expansion will enable us to increase our annual patient capacity from 50,000 to 70,000+ animals, strengthening both our educational program and the delivery of high-quality veterinary care. Concurrently, the school plans to expand enrollment in the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) program from 155 to 200 students per class, addressing workforce need while enhancing clinical learning opportunities.

Joan and Sandy, 91 and 92 years old respectively, understand our facility limitations and recognizing the urgency of these challenges, support the initiation of this project as critical to meeting the growing needs of our students, faculty and the veterinary community. Given the donors' advanced age, we respectfully request that action proceed as swiftly as possible to allow them the opportunity to fully experience and appreciate the impact of their generous gift.

**Conclusion**

In recognition of the Weill's extraordinary philanthropic generosity, it is strongly recommended that the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine be officially named:

"University of California Davis Joan and Sanford I. Well School of Veterinary Medicine"

The Weill's dedication to UC Davis and to the broader scientific and academic community has and continues to improve the lives of countless students, scientists, researchers and veterinarians. This gift positions the school to make an even greater impact, for animals, people and for our planet.

On behalf of the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, I respectfully submit this proposal for consideration and approval.

I kindly request that all parties maintain the highest level of confidentiality throughout this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark D. Stetter".

Mark D. Stetter, DVM, Dipl. ACZM  
Dean and Professor, School of Veterinary Medicine  
University of California, Davis

Attachment:

- UC Compendium. Simple Name Change. Accelerated Review. Section III.B.2