

COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & BUDGET (CPB)
MINUTES
OCTOBER 21, 2025

PRESENT:

David Oglesby, Earth & Planetary Sciences, CPB Chair
Vyjayanthi Chari, Mathematics, CPB Vice Chair
Bahman Anvari, Bioengineering
Richard Debus, Biochemistry
Anthony Grubescic, School of Public Policy
Cathy Gudis, History
Steven Helfand, Economics
Hyun Hong, Area of Accounting
Cong Liu, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Liz Przybylski, Music

ABSENT:

Meng Chen, Botany & Plant Sciences
Scott Pegan, Biomedical Sciences
Jade Sasser, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Chair David Oglesby called the meeting to order at 11:05am.

CPB members voted to approve the October 14 meeting minutes. One member abstained from voting due to not attending the October 14 meeting.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Chair Oglesby discussed prioritizing and finalizing the following questions which CPB planned to ask/email to the Interim VCPBA, Sandra Kim, and Executive Director of PBA, Stephanie Flores, for the October 28 meeting:

- *After the Faculty Feedback Forum hosted by CPB last year, the VCPBA's office committed to additional transparency. This included the idea from the VCPBA team to have a regular communication or newsletter about budget topics. CPB provided some initial suggestions, based on faculty feedback. Having the entire CPB present at the first CFC meeting was a good step, as was including the CPB Chair on the upcoming Chancellor's Budget Review Committee. Are there other steps being planned, such as making detailed budgetary numbers available to the broader campus, or a quarterly newsletter?*
- *How is the VCPBA's office approaching the cost of graduate education? What are the feedback mechanisms currently in place to invite faculty feedback into any proposed changes?*

- *How is the VCPBA's office approaching the cost of undergraduate education, particularly as it relates to providing adequate and trained TAs in an instructional capacity to support undergraduate learning?*
- *Do you believe that using AI to replace and/or change the duties of TAs, instructors, and/or advisors is a likely and/or appropriate outcome for undergraduate education for financial reasons?*
- *What financial impact(s) do you anticipate coming from ongoing pressure from the federal government, and from the state government?*
- *What is your take on the document shared by Ahmet Palazoglu on behalf of the Academic Council regarding academic freedom (["STATEMENT FROM THE UC ACADEMIC COUNCIL REGARDING ANY POTENTIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT"](#)) as potentially tied to federal pressures?*

[CAMPUS REVIEW ITEM] PROPOSAL: COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH MUTUAL ACADEMIC DEFENSE COMPACTS IN DEFENSE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM, FREE EXPRESSION, INSTITUTIONAL INTEGRITY, AND THE RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

CPB reviewed the Committee on Academic Freedom's resolution that aims to unite institutions to collectively defend and safeguard shared values of academic freedom, free expression, democratic governance, civic responsibility, scientific discovery, and the pursuit of knowledge in all fields. Generally, CPB members expressed support for the resolution, while noting the need for more detailed implementation plans.

More specifically, thus far CPB members had the following comments:

- *Participating in such a coalition could put UCR at an advantage if it makes it possible for UCR to work collaboratively with other universities to identify alternative funding structures, share information, and organize coalition-building to make UCR - and the UCs- more protected from threats to academic freedom.*
- *It was unclear how far the financial commitments associated with such compacts would go, so the budgetary implications of the proposals aren't clear at this time. When the proposed compacts are drafted, care should be taken to be as clear as possible on potential commitments of resources, financial or otherwise.*
- *It wasn't clear how the commitments of individual campus resources in these compacts would relate to the UC determination that attacks on any individual campus would be addressed systemwide, rather than at an individual campus level. Would these proposed compacts concern additional sharing of resources beyond the systemwide responses to any attacks on a UC campus?*

MEET WITH UC DAVIS (UCD) CPB CHAIR

The UCD CPB Chair, Professor Rena Zieve, met with UCR's CPB to expound on UCD CPB's advisory role in the UC Davis budget consultation process. UCD CPB is considered the "gold standard" of CPBs by its peers and UCPB. UCD CPB provides trend analysis and constructive feedback on UCD budget proposals. Professor Zieve indicated that UCD CPB's input is considered influential on the UCD campus, as evidenced by instances when UCD's administration took actions based on UCD CPB's recommendations.

Professor Zieve explained that UCD CPB attends a budget retreat in late January with UCD faculty executive committee chairs and administration. At the retreat, UCD CPB receives and reviews budget presentations from Schools and Colleges. After the retreat, UCD CPB provides feedback through reports to UCD's [Budget and Institutional Analysis \(BIA\) Office](#). CPB members noted that UCD's BIA is equivalent to UCR's [Planning, Budget and Administration \(PBA\) Office](#).

When providing an overview of administrative staffing reviews at UCD, Professor Zieve explained that UCD conducts these reviews to assess administrative units' efficiency and spending patterns. Professor Zieve highlighted that BIA prepares comprehensive reports using nationwide data to provide context, and CPB discusses these findings with unit directors before making recommendations. Professor Zieve emphasized that while UCD CPB does not micromanage departments, they can suggest more efficient use of resources, such as spending unallocated funds. UCD CPB built trust over time with UCD departments.

UCR CPB members noted that while academic matters have traditionally dominated FEC agendas, there is an opportunity at UCR for FECs to play a larger role in budget oversight, particularly given UCR faculty interest in budget transparency. Chair Oglesby suggested exploring ways to involve UCR's FEC chairs in budget discussions. With UCR's new chancellor reviewing the entire budget model at UCR, UCR CPB members felt that this might provide an opportunity to restructure how budget discussions are handled across campus.

Professor Zieve noted that there is a significant learning curve for new members that serve on CPBs. She advised that UCR should start with faculty-related reviews at the unit level, rather than administrative reviews; and suggested following up/learning more about the UCD dashboard for faculty information that was previously discussed. Regarding graduate education challenges, Professor Zieve reported that UCD is considering changes to the graduate student teaching model but has not yet implemented major reforms.

MEET WITH GRADUATE COUNCIL CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Vijayalakshmi Santhakumar, Graduate Council Chair, and Hyle Park, Graduate Council Vice Chair, met with CPB. Professor Santhakumar discussed the challenges facing graduate education at UCR, including the lack of a long-term strategy for supporting graduate students and the proposed 20% contraction in graduate programs. Professor Santhakumar highlighted the need for faculty involvement in decision-making processes and expressed concern about the potential unionization of fellowships. Concerns were expressed about the contraction of TAs and their

impact on interdepartmental programs, as well as the loss of GAANN fellowships due to diversity language issues.

There was agreement in proposing greater involvement in the UCR budget process for both CPB and the Graduate Council, with plans for CPB to discuss these ideas with the VCPBA in their next meeting. There was a discussion about the possibility of forming a campus committee to reimagine graduate education, with representation from various campus stakeholders. It was stressed that there is a need for a meeting with the Chancellor to address graduate education priorities.

The meeting was called to a close at 12:50pm.