



University of California
Faculty Association

CAMPAIGN EXPLAINER

Defend UC Against Federal Interference

Over the past two years, UC faculty have faced an unprecedented attack on our ability to do our research.

Now more than ever it is necessary for UCOP to defend the university's academic mission by using its resources to stabilize the sponsored research environment. Long term, we urge UCOP to ensure that faculty have the resources necessary for success in establishing impactful research programs and obtaining outside funding.

It has become increasingly clear that the UC is not doing its part to assist faculty through these difficulties. They refused to participate in the lawsuits against the Trump administration and have offered a piecemeal response to this systemwide crisis, leaving faculty to manage the fallout largely on their own.

UNDER FEDERAL ATTACK
SINCE

2025

UC PARTICIPATION IN THE
LAWSUITS

Refused

GRANT FUNDS RESTORED BY
THE FA LAWSUIT

\$500M+

OUR DEMAND

Create a transparent and accessible fund to assure the continuation of research programs affected by federal funding politics and to enable research time for health sciences faculty whose salaries rely on a combination of grants and clinical work.

A new level of insecurity in the sponsored research environment.

Since the beginning of 2025, UC faculty have faced a new level of insecurity in the sponsored research environment. The federal administration has carried out a systematic attack on research by eliminating funding agencies, canceling awarded grants, reducing the funding available, delaying the distribution of awards, and politicizing the peer-review process.

Lawsuits

The UC Faculty Associations and our partner, the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), have opposed these assaults by filing lawsuits against the federal administration.

SB 895

We organized faculty support for SB 895, the Science and Health Research Bond Act.

UC's response

A piecemeal response to a systemwide crisis, leaving faculty to manage the fallout largely on their own.

The result has been significant insecurity about the future of funding availability. The loss of funds can undermine years, sometimes decades, of research. It undercuts faculty's ability to win future grants and diminishes what distinguishes the UC system: our world leadership in research.



LAUNCH OF FA, AAUP, AND UC UNIONS LAWSUIT AGAINST THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION · UCSF

In the health sciences in particular, some faculty do not receive salary support from central funds and are therefore reliant on their clinical work and their grants to fund their research time. A loss of funding for them can mean a loss of salary, an end to their research program, or even the loss of their faculty position. Physician researchers are often pressured to subsidize their research with additional clinical time, which has the effect of further diminishing their research programs and reducing their competitiveness for future funding. Early career researchers are particularly vulnerable to these pressures, especially as their start up funds diminish.

OUR PROPOSAL

A transparent and accessible research stabilization fund

To maintain UC's place as a world leader in scientific research, faculty need a stable funding environment. Early career faculty need support at critical junctures in their development to ensure they fully develop their research program and secure funding. Physician researchers need protected research time to ensure their research programs do not suffer at the whims of the federal instability.



BERKELEY AND DAVIS FACULTY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ORGANIZING FOR CALIFORNIA RESEARCH FUNDING • SACRAMENTO

We urge UCOP to prioritize faculty research as a core activity of the university. This means investing significant resources in stabilizing the sponsored research environment in the midst of this crisis and deepening the administration's commitment to support faculty to build their research program.

We recognize that budgetary questions are complex and need to be addressed thoughtfully. We would argue that protecting the research mission of the university should be one of the university's highest priorities and that current budgeting does not always reflect those priorities (see our UC Budget Primer).

This is why faculty must be at the table when these priorities are set. Our first-hand knowledge of the needs of researchers and the trajectory of careers in research must be the basis of any policy for research support.



DAVIS FACULTY ASSOCIATION MEMBERS ORGANIZING FOR SB895

A binding commitment

A transparent, accessible fund to support faculty affected by federal disruption of research.

A seat at the table

An elected, representative faculty committee to negotiate with UCOP over research support.

Real accountability

Faculty take part in implementation and subsequent oversight.

This is what organizing can win.

Join your FA today and ask three colleagues to sign the petition.
ucfaculty.org/join



SIGN THE PETITION!