

Budget Committee Report- Feb 4, 2026

Members: Faculty- Bharti Sharma (Chair), Kang Hoon Sung, Jose M Aguilar-Hernandez, Shokoufeh Mirzaei, Stephen G Osborn, Katie Richardson, Anna L Soper, Don St. Hilaire, Michelle Soto-Peña, Staff- Lisa M. Rotunni, Sabrina Toney, ASI Student representative -Addie Hasson

The Budget Committee has met twice times during this reporting period.

Jan 21, 2026- The committee convened to discuss January budget proposal and upcoming Academic Affairs presentation briefly.

Committee members in attendance - Kang Hoon Sung, Katie Richardson, Anna L Soper, Don St. Hilaire, Addie Hasson, Michelle Soto-Peña, Sabrina Toney, Jose M Aguilar-Hernandez, Lisa M. Rotunni, Bharti Sharma.

Jan 28, 2026- Engaged in an invited presentation on Academic Affairs Budget presented by Executive Director Ms. Lisa Rotunni and Provost Terri Gomez.

Committee members in attendance - Kang Hoon Sung, Katie Richardson, Anna L Soper, Don St. Hilaire, Addie Hasson, Sabrina Toney, Jose M Aguilar-Hernandez, Lisa M. Rotunni, Bharti Sharma.

Cal Poly Pomona's Academic Affairs Budget Presentation Summary

(The presentation and the budget summary sheet provide by Academic Affairs are uploaded in the Academic Affairs Senate Agenda)

The key highlights from the FY 25-26 Academic Affairs budget:

The Academic Affairs budget represents roughly two-thirds of Divisional General Funds Base allocation, excluding centrally managed funds and benefits. The Academic Affairs expenditures fall into three main categories- instructional salaries, other salaries and operating expense. Salaries typically account for about 90% of the Academic Affairs expenditures.

Current Year Update:

1. A base budget increase of **\$5.58 M**, bringing the total base budget to **\$150.8 M** for FY 25/26.
2. New one-time dollars allocations totaling **\$8.9 M** include: one-time compensation (\$985 K), one-time new tenure-track faculty (\$1.47 M), one-time state-side summer faculty (\$1.28 M). In addition, a \$5.21 M in one time funding for operating was provided from reserves. Approximately 24.1% of temporary faculty budget and 45.4% of operating budget were supported by these one-time funds.

3. **Carryforward one-time funding:** Designated funds- \$7.6 M and Undesignated funds- \$1.48 M for a combined carryforward of **\$9.1 M**. Due to a tighter budget environment the carryforward dollars are 30% down from previous years.
4. **POM01 funds-** A base budget -\$150.8 M + New one-time allocations- \$8.9 M + Carryforward funds \$9.1 M, constitutes a total of **\$168.9 M** as POM01 funds.
5. POM01 funds **\$168.9 M** are allocated as salaries -tenure line- \$73.3 M, temporary faculty- \$33.2 M, staff- \$26.9 M, MPP- \$10.2 M, Designated operating funds- \$11.9 M and Undesignated operating funds- \$11.4 M.
6. To balance the budget, teacher-scholar award was paused, professional development funds were reduced to \$500/tenure-line faculty, SFR was increased- 6.1%, VSIP offered, reserves used.
7. Continued funding for sabbatical leave (\$687 K), assigned time for new faculty (\$1.3M) and for exception service to students (\$149 K), large classes program (\$2 M), summer and intersession department chair stipend (\$1.2 M), student success funds (\$381 K), Additional bottleneck courses (\$1.7M).
8. **POM01 Allocations-** **\$168.9 M** constitutes 92% of Academic affairs budget. The remaining 8% is supported by other sources, including Cost-recovery funds (PCR01)- 5%, Campus partner funds (TM002) 2% from CPGE, lottery allocations-1%.

Planning 2026-27

- Governors January budget proposal is a positive news for the institution.
- Enrollment target increases by 285 FTES.
- Tuition increase by 6%.
- Continued reliance on on-time funding remains a concern.
- Teacher-Scholar program has been reinstated.
- A reasonable number of faculty searches will be conducted.

Committee Discussion themes:

1. **Enrollment Targets:** The committee asked about this year's enrollment outlook. Provost Gomez indicated that the university is positioned to meet its enrollment goals.
2. **Tenure-Track Hiring and Sabbaticals:** Questions were raised about tenure-track hiring and about number of sabbaticals to be awarded given the improving budget situation based on January proposal. The Provost noted that specific numbers for tenure-track hiring will be shared during the upcoming Senate meeting. The CSU specifies the number of sabbaticals that we must award and we always award at least that many.

3. **Faculty in Administrative roles:** The committee discussed how salaries are categorized for faculty serving as directors or in administrative assignments. The Provost clarified that these salaries are still counted under the faculty category.
4. **Academic Affairs Vs. College Operating Costs:** Discussion focused on Centrally funded versus College -level operating expenses. Campus-wide resources (for example, major software systems and Canvas) fall under Academic Affairs operational budget, while colleges cover localized needs such as temporary faculty hires.
5. **Carryover funds:** The committee reviewed the process for returning carryover funds to the divisions. The Provost explained that funds with designated purposes are returned and allocated to their intended use. The committee also asked why the amount of these funds in 2025 was lower than the previous year- Ms. Rotunni explained- ongoing budgetary challenges have maximized the divisions reliance of these funds.

Committee Recommendations:

1. **Managing Class Schedules:** The committee recognizes that managing the class schedule is an important balancing process amid evolving enrollment and budget pressures. Continued regular and transparent communication between Academic affairs and departments helps ensure units are well prepared and that scheduling decisions are consistently informed by curriculum requirements and faculty consultation within each unit. This shared approach acknowledges that faculty bring deepest knowledge of their curricula and supports effective academic planning while sustaining faculty morale.
2. **Professional Development:** With the January proposal showing promise, the committee encourages increasing the professional development fund to an amount that can effectively support faculty growth. These opportunities should also be made available to lecturers to ensure equitable access to professional development across all instructional roles.
3. **Teacher- Scholar Program-** The committee recommends continued support of teacher-scholar program.
4. **Faculty Hiring:** The committee also recommends continued hiring of tenure-track faculty to support the university's instructional and research mission.

Budget Committee Commentary and Collaborative Next Steps

The committee acknowledges that 2025-2026 has been a tough financial year and it would like to thank Provost Gomez for her leadership during this time. The committee expresses its appreciation for Executive Director Rotunni for the detailed and clear presentation and discussion. Looking ahead, the committee encourages continued collaboration, transparent financial analysis, and thoughtful resource allocation.