I. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Assistant Chancellor Todd Lee announced that the state budget was approved last Friday, which addresses the $42 billion state problem in a number of ways. The budget agreed to have a 4% base budget adjustment to UC. The UC Regents asked for $123 million; the Governor’s budget gives nearly zero to UC. Normal uses of state money include salary increases and benefits and support expenses. UC had expected an additional 1% increase in the state general funds this year (about $31 million). Potential uses could have been towards graduate student support, equipment replacement, deferred maintenance and library materials. Now the campuses have to fund these programs through budget cuts. To help with increased workload, the university asked the state for funding for 5,000 additional students. The state has refused to fund the additional students. There are about 12,000 unfunded students system wide right now. Additionally, for retirement contributions the Regents asked for $228 million from the state; the governor’s budget has included no funding for retirement. The result of no additional state funds will be a student fee increase of 9.3%. UC will also have an additional cut of $50 million to their overall budget from the state. Assistant Chancellor Lee told the committee that other cuts will be replaced by economic stimulus money in the future, although no one is sure how the stimulus money will be distributed.

II. MINUTES
The minutes from February 24th were approved as amended.

III. ACTION ITEMS
A. Davidson Library Addition and Renewal Schematic Design
The Committee recommended that the Chancellor approve project schematic design for the Davidson Library Addition and Renewal and that the project proceed into working drawing when State funds become available.

B. Sedgwick Residence Project and Schematic Design
The Committee recommended that the Chancellor approve the schematic design for the Sedgwick Residence Project and move forward with the acceptance of the gift. The proposal is a turnkey project.

III. DISCUSSION ITEMS
A. Interpretive Center
Vice Chancellor Michael Witherell introduced the proposed interpretive center. There is already evidence of community support for the interpretive center; various foundations and individuals have expressed interest in helping fund the project. Carla D’antonio, Professor of Environmental Studies, preceded to present the proposed interpretive center project to be located on the New West Campus. She explained partially due to its unique location, UCSB is a leader in marine science and near shore ecology. The interpretive center would bring together the environmental studies resources from campus together with the natural resources of the region to enhance our research community and public outreach. The New West Campus site is an ideal location for the proposed interpretive center.
The primary occupant of the proposed interpretive center would be CSHORE (Center for Shoreline Habitat Outreach Research and Education), devoted to the study of on-shore coastal habitats. The Marine Sciences Institute has established two interpretive centers already that focus on open-ocean and near-shore marine environments. These are respectively called (1) Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science (OCTOS), and (2) the Research Experience and Education Facility (REEF). This center would complement the existing marine-oriented centers and serve as a link between upland educational resources such as the Sedgwick Reserve and marine habitats for the Santa Barbara coast region.

The project proposes to renovate Building 7060 on the New West Campus. Building 7060 was constructed in 1960, is about 5,000 square feet. The condition of the building is poor and requires major renovation and seismic upgrading. The location is ideal for access to the natural resources of the region including Devereux Slough, the beach at COPR, and the South Parcel area.

Below is a list of ongoing programs that could collaborate with and utilize the proposed interpretive center:

- Kids in Nature: This program is funded by private donors, aimed at supporting underserved communities. These partnerships with schools in the Goleta, Lompoc and Santa Maria areas aspire to improve equity and diversity in the sciences. The proposed Interpretive Center would act as a home for this program.

- Environmental Education Class and Internships: These classes are part of new science minor in the School of Education. The Interpretive center could be a site to help train future K-12 science teachers.

Future programming includes:

- The Cheadle Center: The Cheadle Center is about to begin a restoration program of the South Parcel. The restoration aims to educate public both about ecological restoration and native plants and animals of that region.

- Expanding classroom use and visits to Coal Oil Point: Many classes visit Coal Oil Point Reserve serving at least 5,000 people a year. These docent-led visits could be expanded with a new interpretive center. Additionally, there are many requests by visiting researchers to have research space at Coal Oil Point. The interpretive center could provide extra space for these researchers.

The proposed center will fill current and projected needs for a docent training facility, provide free-standing interpretive displays and a classroom for a range of university-sponsored activities including research and outreach, and provide office space for CCEBER staff managing South Parcel. The proposal will also include a native plant garden.

The project is compatible with projected New West Campus site uses. CSHORE could sponsor small conference events with the Tate Center. Additionally, an interpretive center would be a desirable feature for housing slated for the North Knoll. The proposed project would highlight the University’s commitment to conservation and stewardship on this large area of coastal land. The total cost estimate for the project is about $1.6 million.

B. Emergency Generator Project and Site Approval

Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Marc Fisher explained the need for a good emergency power generation on top of Storke Tower, sighting the hazardous conditions during the GAP fire.
During the GAP fire, the red light marking the top of Storke tower (the tallest building in the region) shut off due to rolling power outages. The light near the center of the tower did stay on during these outages, which airplanes could have mistaken for the top of the tower. Associate Vice Chancellor Ron Cortez pointed out that this is extremely hazardous in an emergency.

The telephone company Verizon would like to have an emergency power generator to power its cell phone towers during power outages in the area. Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Fisher explained how this Verizon funded generator could be mutually beneficial because the emergency power could also run the red light on top of Storke tower, the radio station and the newspaper during an emergency. Design and Construction Services is working closely with Verizon to come up with a scheme which is palatable for that site. Verizon would own and operate the generator for about ten years, after which it will revert to the University or Verizon will have to pay the cost of removing it from the site. Verizon is funding all construction, installation, operation and landscaping of the generator/site.

Senior Planner, Dennis Whelan presented drawings of the generator to the committee. The power generator will be in a concrete box enclosure (matching the façade of the Arts building) directly adjacent to the north east corner of the Arts building. Once a month the generator will be tested in the early morning before the building is occupied and should not cause noise disturbance during the day. Also, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Fisher explained that an ADA path of travel improvement (which the campus can not fund currently) will be put into the project, taking people from the front door of the Arts building to the University Center. The generator is a diesel generator, but is not considered an air pollutant generator because it runs intermittently. Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Lucas requested that the Arts faculty must be notified of the generator.

C. Status of State Capital Program and Federal Economic Stimulus Plan

Director Martie Levy gave a quick update on the capital program. The approved 2009-10 State Budget does not include any funding for the UC Capital program. There is only a very small chance that UC, CSU or community colleges will get any state funds for the capital program next year. What that means is we have gone through two years of extremely limited funds for the capital program. It is unknown if this will continue into 2010-11. Director Levy reported that given this shortfall in State capital funding, a significant backlog of UC capital projects now exists. This backlog will impact the ability of UC to continue to rely on the standard methodology for campus targets. Capital Planners system-wide are recommending that UC, at least for the next two to three years, take a more system wide approach to use of state capital funding to address the backlog.

There are 5,400 projects in the overall state capital program have been frozen, by PMIB, representing a $7 billion in backlog. The PMIB board floats about $12 billion annually. Director Levy has heard it will take about 6-12 months to catch up to raise enough money to get the state capital program moving again. Our campus will keep the Education and Social Sciences Building going. The funding for Engineering II is good through August. All other projects have been completely frozen, including the Arts building. Funding for the Arts building will be re-appropriated into next year.

Director Levy informed the committee that even voter-approved initiatives are not going forward right now. Federal stimulus funding for state stabilization totals $53.6 billion, which will be allocated out to states to offset cuts to K-12 education and higher education. This money can be used for facility modernization. About $4.6-5 billion will be given to California, but it is unclear whether the state will put any money toward facility modernization for high education. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) portion of federal stimulus package is about $1.5 billion for university research; again we don’t know the regulations on that money. If state money does become available it can be used for student housing, modernization and shovel ready projects (meaning
the university must commit or spend 50% of the money within 9 months). Projects that are well into working drawings would qualify. Our Phelps Hall project is a shovel ready project by their definition. The state may not solicit any projects, but just delegate money to campuses as they see fit. The capital program is in a truly unique situation; we don’t know how that state will prioritize projects yet.

IV. INFORMATION & FOLLOW-UP ITEMS
A. Status Report: Special Projects Subcommittee
No report.

B. Status Report: Design Review Committee
No report.

C. Status Report: Faculty & Staff Housing
Assistant Chancellor Lee reported that the Sierra Madre project is currently advertised. Responses are due in April. The EVC has sent out a memo providing an update of the Ocean Walk North Campus project. Assistant Chancellor Lee explained that we are moving forward with the negotiation. There will be a meeting tomorrow to deal with insurance issues. The project’s landscaping and wetlands restoration area is being finalized over the next week, which will be submitted to the Coastal Commission shortly after.

D. Status Report: Student Housing
No report.

E. Status Report: Major Capital Projects
Director Levy announced that the architect selection process is in the works for proposed Bioengineering building. Six firms have been selected for interviews.

G. Long Range Development Plan- vision 2025
Executive Vice Chancellor Lucas reported that the public workshop will go forward on March 12th at Santa Catalina. The workshop will specifically address the current changes to the LRDP. Director Levy mentioned that her office continues to work on the 10-Year Plan and will be bringing something to the committee in April for discussion.

V. Correspondence

Next meeting will be held on April 7, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM
Minutes taken by Jasmine Weiss, Office of Budget & Planning