

The Regents of the University of California

NATIONAL LABORATORIES COMMITTEE

January 20, 2026

The National Laboratories Committee met on the above date at the UCLA Luskin Conference Center, Los Angeles campus.

Members present: Regents Anguiano, Brooks, Hernandez, Kounalakis, Park, Robinson, Sures, and Wang; Ex officio members Milliken and Reilly; Advisory members Melton, Palazoglu, and Tokita; Chancellors Assanis, Hawgood, and Muñoz; Staff Advisors Frías and Hanson

In attendance: Regents Cohen, Komoto, Leib, Makarechian, and Sarris, Regent-designate Craven, Faculty Representative Scott, Secretary and Chief of Staff Lyall, General Counsel Robinson, Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Bustamante, Provost Newman, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Brostrom, Senior Vice President Turner, Vice Presidents Kao and Yu, Chancellors Frenk and Hu, and Recording Secretary Li

The meeting convened at 4:10 p.m. with Committee Chair Hernandez presiding.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes of the meeting of July 16, 2025 were approved, Regents Anguiano, Brooks, Hernandez, Kounalakis, Milliken, Park, Reilly, Robinson, Sures, and Wang voting “aye.”¹

2. ANNUAL REPORT ON FISCAL YEAR 2025 NATIONAL LABORATORY PERFORMANCE RATINGS

[Background material was provided to Regents in advance of the meeting, and a copy is on file in the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff.]

Vice President Yu provided an overview of the federal government’s annual performance ratings of the University’s National Laboratories during federal fiscal year 2025, which spanned October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. UC National Laboratories had a combined annual operating budget exceeding \$10 billion and a workforce of over 31,000 employees.

For FY 2025, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) was awarded 94 percent of the available earned fee based on the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Science’s assessment of the Laboratory’s scientific, technical, managerial, and operational performance with regard to eight performance goals. LBNL received an overall rating of “A” for Mission Accomplishment and an “A-” rating for Science and Technology Program

¹ Roll call vote required by the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act [Government Code § 11123(b)(1)(D)] for all meetings held by teleconference.

Management; Leadership/Stewardship; Environment, Safety and Health; Business Systems; and Safeguards/Security. The Laboratory received a “B+” rating for Research Facilities and Infrastructure. LBNL was recognized for producing high-quality, original, and creative results that advance science and technology, demonstrating sustained scientific progress and impact, providing effective programmatic vision and leadership, strategic planning and development of initiatives, recruiting and retaining a high-quality scientific workforce, and providing outstanding research processes that improve research productivity along with sustained operational excellence. The strong, trust-based partnership between the Laboratory, the DOE site office, and the UC National Laboratories office was cited as a key contributor to LBNL’s longstanding record of high performance. In terms of issues and challenges, the Advanced Light Source upgrade project remained a high priority for both the Laboratory and the University. At the beginning of FY 2025, UC successfully extended the prime contract to manage and operate LBNL, which would now run through May 31, 2030.

Unlike DOE Office of Science Laboratories, DOE National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) National Laboratories like Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) and Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL) were evaluated using six goals. The Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC received an overall “Excellent” rating of 91 percent and earned 95 percent of available fee. LLNL received a rating of “Excellent” in the Mission Delivery categories of Advancing Science and Technology and Leadership, and the Laboratory received a rating of “Very Good” in the categories Mission Enablement and Infrastructure. NNSA noted that LLNL continued to deliver at a very high level across all its mission portfolios. LLNL’s National Ignition Facility, the world’s largest and most powerful laser system, achieved a record fusion yield during this past fiscal year. El Capitan, a high-performance computing system, was transferred to production; it was designated and has remained the most powerful supercomputer in the world. In terms of issues and challenges, LLNL needed to continue focusing on establishing and validating robust, well-defined processes for Material Control and Accountability as well as Quality Assurance to ensure operational excellence and compliance. LLNL’s prime contract, which was also extended at the beginning of FY 2025, would now run through September 30, 2031 and had an optional one-year extension.

For LANL, the Triad National Security, LLC received an overall “Very Good” rating of 89 percent and earned 94 percent of available fee. LANL received a rating of “Excellent” in Advancing Science and Technology, in Leadership, and in the Mission Delivery category of Global Nuclear Security. The Laboratory received a “Very Good” rating in Mission Enablement and in the Mission Delivery category of Weapons. This evaluation highlighted LANL’s strong support for the government activities related to stockpile modernization and nuclear nonproliferation. In terms of issues and challenges, the Laboratory would continue to focus on capital project management due to its extensive portfolio of infrastructure projects. Ms. Yu noted that infrastructure and capital project management challenges were not unique to LANL; NNSA added a new construction project and infrastructure goal for all NNSA management and operating contracts to highlight the significant infrastructure and capital construction workload across the nuclear security enterprise. LANL’s current prime contract would run through September 2028.

Compared with the UC National Laboratories spend plan released last July, which estimated that LLNL and LANL would earn \$30 million, the two Laboratories earned a combined \$38.4 million. Ms. Yu opined that this was a great year for UC National Laboratories, marked by strong science and mission execution, excellent leadership, and strong partnership based on trust, transparency, and accountability.

Committee Chair Hernandez asked about the relationship between the score and the earned fee. Ms. Yu replied that there were fees associated with each goal in a Laboratory's performance evaluation plan. The rating for each goal determined the percentage of fee earned. The score and earned fee were not necessarily aligned.

Regent Park asked how the additional \$8 million in revenue would be utilized and whether the Laboratories were on track to improve their infrastructure and construction issues. Ms. Yu responded in the affirmative; there was a good team working to improve the Laboratories' capital management and infrastructure. The additional fee would be presented as part of the annual spend plan for Regental approval at a future meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary and Chief of Staff