

COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION (CAPRA)
ANNUAL REPORT
AY 2024-2025

To the Merced Division of the Academic Senate:

The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) held a total of 15 regularly scheduled meetings and conducted some business via email with respect to its duties as outlined in UC Merced's Senate Bylaw [II.IV.1](#).

CAPRA also benefited from regular consultation with the EVC/Provost, VC/CFO, and the VPAAS, who attended meetings this academic year.

Areas of Focus

Campus Budget Reduction Exercise

In consultation with the EVC/Provost and VC/CFO, CAPRA's main focus this year was reviewing the budget reduction proposals from the following campus divisions that comprise Academic Affairs: EVC/Provost's Office, School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts, School of Natural Sciences, School of Engineering, Division of Undergraduate Education, Graduate Division, Library, Academic Planning and Assessment Support Center, Academic Personnel Office, and the Academic Senate Office.

After intensive meetings and much discussion, CAPRA submitted its budget reduction recommendations to the EVC/Provost on February 28, 2025. In its memo to the EVC/Provost, CAPRA acknowledged the financial constraints that the University faces, but cautioned against undoing our recent successes and placing UC Merced's hard-won reputation in jeopardy by further reductions to the AA budget. CAPRA also strongly advocated for the preservation of the Temporary Academic Staffing (TAS) budget.

Campus Budget and TAS Budget

Throughout the academic year, the EVC/Provost and the VC/CFO answered CAPRA's questions on the campus budget and the TAS budget. The VC/CFO kept CAPRA informed on the impact of the state budget cuts on UC Merced and the UC system, and campus revenue sources and expenditures for the fiscal year including core revenues (state appropriations, indirect cost return, and tuition and fees), auxiliary revenues, and other revenue sources. Per the EVC/Provost's request, CAPRA reviewed the recommendations from the TAS Allocation Methodology Group (the group was formulated last year). CAPRA appreciated campus leadership's efforts around clarity and transparency with regard to the TAS budget.

CAPRA expressed concern about any adverse outcomes to UC Merced's student population that would result from changes in the allocation model. CAPRA also advocated for spending what is needed to deliver the UC quality education that UC Merced students deserve, rather than being constrained by an inaccurate upper limit or cap on the TAS budget.

Consultation

EVC/Provost

CAPRA benefited from regular consultation with the EVC/Provost on a variety of topics this academic year, mainly the campus budget reduction exercise, updates on federal government actions and the impact on faculty, academic planning, TAS budget, enrollment, and the state budget.

VC/CFO

CAPRA benefited from consultations with both individuals throughout the academic year regarding the campus budget reduction exercise, TAS budget, and future campus budget scenarios.

Senate Committee on Research (CoR)

In spring 2025, the CoR chair invited CAPRA's preliminary feedback on a proposal from the Sierra Nevada Research Institute ORU to change its name and scope. The future newly-named ORU would also integrate three new research centers. CoR and CAPRA supported SNRI's efforts to proceed with the rebranding. However, due to SNRI's upcoming leadership transition, it was not yet feasible for CoR and CAPRA to address some of the important questions, including the name of the new institute, a new mission statement, a new organization chart, and a strategic plan outlining goals, activities, and resources needed in Year 1. To facilitate the rebranding process, CoR developed a template (which was also reviewed by CAPRA) for a proposal to be reviewed by the Senate. The template is significantly shorter than for ORU establishment or regular review. CoR and CAPRA requested that the SNRI proposal be submitted for review by Fall 2025.

Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR)

CAPRA consulted with the VCR on questions about the campus pre-award spending policy.

Medical Education and PRIME+ program leadership

CAPRA consulted with Dr. Margo Vener, Director of Medical Education and Professor Joel Spencer, School of Engineering, on the proposal for a Dual Degree Program Leading to a B.S. Degree from the University of California Merced and an M.D. Degree from the University of California, San Francisco.

Senate Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (AFAC) Chair and Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management

CAPRA consulted with AFAC Chair Cleary and VC Hagg on enrollment issues.

Physical Operations, Planning & Development (POPD)

CAPRA consulted with POPD staff on campus research infrastructure issues.

Representation on Campus Committees

CAPRA had representation on the Periodic Review Oversight Committee.

University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) updates

The CAPRA chair represented the committee on UCPB and kept CAPRA members updated on topics raised by this systemwide committee. The major topics of discussion on UCPB this year were the impacts of federal government actions, state budget, and the UC budget.

Campus Review Items

- CAPRA reviewed and commented on:
 - Anthropology & Heritage Studies graduate program proposal
 - SSHA Reorganization Proposal
 - Electrical Engineering Minor proposal
 - Non-degree Certificate Proposals:
 - Certified Associate in Project Management Certificate
 - Professional Certificate in Project Management
 - Professional Certificate in California Government and Policy
 - Proposal for a Dual Degree Program Leading to a B.S. Degree from the University of California Merced and an M.D. Degree from the University of California, San Francisco
 - Proposal for PK-3 Early Childhood Education Specialist Instruction Credential
 - B.S. & Minor in Accounting proposal
 - B.A. Degree & Minor in Business Administration proposal
 - Liberal Studies B.A. proposal
 - LES grad group proposal
 - Mechanical Engineering department name change proposal

Systemwide Review Items

- CAPRA reviewed and commented on:

- Proposed Presidential Policy BFB - BUS-63: Risk Transfer and Insurance Requirements
- Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

Respectfully submitted:

CAPRA members:

Michael Beman, SNS (Chair & UCPB representative Spring 2025)
Venkattraman Ayyaswamy, SoE (Vice Chair Spring 2025, Member Fall 2024)
Courtenay Monroe, SSHA (Senate Vice Chair and PROC Representative)
David Kaminsky, SSHA
Victor Muñoz, SoE
Chih-Chun Chien, SNS
Katrina Hoyer, SNS
Dan Hicks, SSHA

Former Member:

Kara McCloskey, SoE (Chair & UCPB representative Fall 2024)

Senate Staff:

Simrin Takhar