

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION (CAPRA)**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**AY 2025-2026**

To the Merced Division of the Academic Senate:

The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) held a total of 16 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 again 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 March 13, 2026. In its memo to the EVC/Provost, CAPRA emphasized the fundamental principle of shared governance, and this must be honored fully and completely in the coming year. CAPRA advocated for taking a strategic approach through shared governance, and required that the following be implemented for next year's budget reductions and process:

- CAPRA expects a proactive plan from the administration that actively and regularly informs CAPRA of the budget reductions and process, status reports in every CAPRA meeting next year, and a schedule of Dean's Council and Joint Council meetings that will include multiple Senate representatives.
- An inclusive and nuanced view of staff. To date, staff positions have been treated as equivalent in terms of budget cuts, with the exception of lecturer positions. These views distort thinking around the true impacts of budget cuts.
- CAPRA requests timely and transparent information on staff organization, compensation, distribution, and changes over time.
- The Senate was not involved in nor informed of any budget discussions leading up to the mass announcement in November 2025. CAPRA stated that at the very least, the Senate should be informed prior to the release of significant information to the wider university

community. To avoid any ambiguity in the coming year, CAPRA requested that the VC/CFO provide updates to CAPRA in every meeting regarding budget reductions.

### *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 Chancellor also attended a CAPRA meeting to discuss the campus 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.

In spring 2026, the EVC/Provost provided a draft TAS Fall 2026 Task Force charge for review. CAPRA provided its feedback during its May 11, 2026 meeting. The EVC/Provost intends to submit a revised charge to CAPRA. Once the charge is finalized, the Committee on Committees will populate the task force. The task force is expected to convene in fall 2026.

### *Senate Faculty FTE Allocation Process*

This academic year, the EVC/Provost submitted to CAPRA a draft Senate faculty FTE allocation process and principles. CAPRA's February 17, 2026 response memo expressed appreciation for the way the principles aimed to construct a more regularized and fair system of allocating Senate faculty FTE lines. However, CAPRA did have some concerns, such as:

- the allocation process should include explicit Achievement Relative to Opportunity principles
- concerns that many of the proposed metrics are vulnerable to gaming and create perverse incentives
- concern that the proposed principles put too much emphasis on extramural support, assuming a paradigm that is only really applicable to natural sciences and engineering,
- concern that the proposed principles focus too much on headcount, the total number of Senate faculty within a given unit, rather than the distribution of expertise and teaching competency.
- CAPRA requested that departments should be able to verify the accuracy of metrics, and have opportunities to make corrections or raise concerns about, e.g., how exactly metrics are calculated.

In summer 2026, a subset of CAPRA members planned to meet to begin drafting CAPRA's own proposal for opining on Senate faculty FTE allocations in fall 2026.

## **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, the state budget, PhD production model for R1, updates to the President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program, and allotment of the new MacKenzie Scott campus gift.

*VC for Enrollment Management and Executive Director of International Affairs*

CAPRA consulted with VC Hagg and Executive Director Gietzen on undergraduate enrollment projections, recruitment workgroup activities, and strategies for increasing enrollment.

*VC for Enrollment Management*

CAPRA consulted with VC Hagg on his proposed scholarship model to increase enrollment.

*VP & Dean of Undergraduate Education*

CAPRA consulted with VPDUE Amy Bergerson on student retention efforts.

*Campus Auxiliaries*

CAPRA consulted with VC Tonantzin Oseguera, Interim AVC Debbie Henderson, Executive Director Chad Pettay, VC&CFO Kurt Schnier on the budget for campus auxiliaries.

*VC for Student Affairs & Engagement*

CAPRA consulted with VC Oseguera on how budget cuts would affect Student Affairs and therefore student life/satisfaction, and what investments might be made to improve current/prospective students' experiences/perception of UC Merced.

*VC/Chief Diversity Officer*

CAPRA consulted with VC/CDO Delia Saenz about activities in her office.

*VC/CFO*

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

*Vice Provost & Dean of Graduate Education (VPDGE)*

CAPRA consulted with VPDGE Hratchian on graduate admissions and maintaining R1 status, impact of declining grant funding on GSRs, maintaining enrollment with fewer GSRs and TAs, Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs,

*Senate Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (LASC) Chair*

CAPRA consulted with the LASC chair on their memo regarding cuts to the Library's collections.

*AVC of the Office of Technology, Innovation, and Industry Relations*

CAPRA consulted with AVC Charity Follett on her new role and which initiatives are being developed or could be developed to increase UC Merced's innovation footprint, and industry relations.

#### *VC/CIO*

CAPRA consulted with VC/CIO Dugan on the global IT funding model, school-sponsored AI tools, costs of software packages, license models, Trellix Endpoint Security, and the expense of hardware updates.

#### *Professor Christian Fons-Rosen (SSHA)*

CAPRA consulted with Professor Fons-Rosen on updates regarding the proposal for the future Gallo School of Management.

#### *Vice Chancellor of External Relations*

CAPRA consulted with VC Ed Klotzbier on raising UC Merced's profile to a level commensurate with the other UCs and improving the public perception of the university and the impact of budget cuts on fundraising efforts.

#### *Vice Chancellor for Research (VCR)*

CAPRA consulted with VCR Wilson on the formation of ORUs, expansion of innovation and entrepreneurship on campus, and an effective use of MacKenzie Scott campus gift funds to best generate return on investment.

#### *Chancellor*

CAPRA consulted with the Chancellor on the campus budget, recent investments and priorities, and revenue generation opportunities.

### **Representation on Campus Committees**

CAPRA had representation on the Strategic Plan Updates Committee, the Space Study Interview Groups, and 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, updates from the UCAD plus working groups, the UC budget, and Senate Bill 895 (Wiener), a bipartisan bill that would place a \$23 billion bond to fund scientific research across California on the November 2026 ballot.

### **Campus Review Items**

- CAPRA reviewed and commented on:
  - Draft report of the Joint Senate Work Group on Academic Senate Procedures for Professional and Continuing Education
  - UC Merced Regulations on Employee Organization & Representative Access to University Property
  - PROC's Proposal for the Periodic Review of Administrative Functions

- Proposed B.S. Degree in Computer Science
- UC Merced Revised Policy on Philanthropic and Honorific Naming of UCM Properties
- Hybrid BA/BS to PharmD Program Proposal
- Proposed Master of Public Health program
- Proposed B.S. Degree in Artificial Intelligence
- Proposed Merger of the Sierra Nevada Research Institute and the Campus Climate Institute
- UC Merced Five-Year Planning Perspectives 2026-2031
- Generative AI Educational Policy

### **Systemwide Review Items**

- CAPRA reviewed and commented on:
  - Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions
  - Presidential Policy on Anatomical Donation Programs and Anatomical Materials
  - Proposal to Establish Systemwide Academic Senate Committee on Climate Change and Sustainability

Respectfully submitted:

#### ***CAPRA members:***

Michael Beman, Chair, SNS (UCPB representative)  
 David Kaminsky, Vice Chair, SSHA  
 Courtenay Monroe, SSHA (Senate Vice Chair and PROC Representative)  
 Victor Muñoz, SoE  
 Nripendra Dhillon, SNS  
 Hyeran Jeon, SoE  
 Michael Scheibner, SNS  
 Dan Hicks, SSHA

#### ***Senate Staff:***

Simrin Takhar