

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION (CAPRA)
ANNUAL REPORT
AY 2022-2023**

To the Merced Division of the Academic Senate:

The Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA) held a total of 19 regularly scheduled in-person 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, Interim VC/CFO, VPAAS, and the Assistant EVC/Provost for Academic Planning & Institutional Assessment who attended meetings this academic year.

Areas of Focus

Department Staffing

In the fall 2022 semester, CAPRA issued a survey to all department chairs to ascertain information on department-level staffing. The survey results revealed that there is no full-time staff dedicated to academic departments. Such staffing is fundamental to the core operation of an academic department at a research university. CAPRA drafted a memo addressed to the EVC/Provost and the School deans – which was first reviewed and endorsed by Divisional Council – and recommended that the campus utilized the Accelerating Campus Expansion (ACE) funds that were going to be provided by UCOP to immediately to employ one full-time staff person in all academic departments when they reach a critical size of 8, or possibly fewer (depending on the circumstances), by fall 2023, with the goal of increasing this to the mean proportion of departmental staff per faculty in the UC system by 2030.

Campus Budget Call

CAPRA’s main accomplishment this academic year was the review of the budget requests that were submitted by all units under Academic Affairs in response to the campus budget call. In preparation for its review, CAPRA frequently consulted with the EVC/Provost, Interim VC/CFO, and the VPAAS in the fall and spring semesters.

CAPRA’s primary focus was on the budget requests submitted by the three Schools, Library, Undergraduate Studies, and the Graduate Division. These requests consisted of a narrative report on progress with the school/division’s academic plan and the impact of the strategies on school and planning measures, the status of 2021-22 strategies, a summary of the use, or planned use, of FY23 budget allocation, a description of any initiatives to increase awareness of the strategic

plan and its relationship to academic planning, and finally, the school/division's narrative document outlining its academic plan for AY 2023-24 to 2027-28.

After several intensive meetings and much discussion with the EVC/Provost, Interim VC/CFO, VPAAS, and Assistant/EVC Provost for Academic Planning & Institutional Assessment, CAPRA submitted its funding recommendations to the EVC/Provost in April 2023. In its memo to the EVC/Provost, CAPRA pointed out that faculty is the engine that drives UC's central mission of teaching and research, and faculty therefore need the direct support of University staff in order to carry out the University mission. The model of higher-level administrative support is no longer functioning adequately for the pressing needs of the campus, and faculty are not able to properly carry out the University mission. Similar to its memo on department staffing, CAPRA recommended that the administration use the ACE funding to provide faculty with direct support at the departmental level to allow them to carry out their duties and relieve their administrative burden.

Strategic Planning

CAPRA was kept apprised of strategic planning through consultations with the Assistant EVC/Provost for Academic Planning & Institutional Assessment. In fall 2022, CAPRA heard updates from the following strategic academic planning teams:

- International Perspectives planning team. This team is focused on the campus strategic plan objective 3.4: deepen our collective appreciation for diversity by developing a more robust international perspective.
- Research and Creative Activities planning team. This team is focused on the campus strategic plan objectives 1.2 (grow UC-quality research and creative activities by strengthening the infrastructure for, and levels of, extramural funding) and 1.3 (increase contributions of students and staff to research and creative activities).
- Academic, Personal, and Career Preparation Strategic planning team. This team is focused on objective 2.2 of the campus strategic plan: broaden and deepen students' academic, personal, and career-related experience and preparation.
- Public and Scholarly Influence of Research planning team. This team is focused on objective 1.1 of the campus strategic plan: Expand the public and scholarly influence of the campus's research at regional, national, and international levels.

Campus Budget

Throughout the academic year, Interim VC/CFO Schnier answered CAPRA's questions on the campus budget and the temporary academic staffing (TAS) budget. CAPRA benefited from these consultations especially given the significant budget implications that arose from the new UAW contracts and the need for the campus to rethink how to support graduate students. The campus also needs to reconsider the balance between Senate faculty and Unit 18 lecturers. CAPRA was

also concerned about the impact of the TAS budget deficit on fall 2023 and spring 2024 instruction.

Consultation

EVC/Provost

CAPRA benefited from regular consultation with the EVC/Provost on a variety of topics this academic year, mainly academic and strategic planning, the campus budget call, enrollment, the state budget, and the new funding streams from UCOP and the state of California.

Interim VC/CFO, VPAAS, and Assistant EVC/Provost for Academic Planning & Institutional Assessment

CAPRA benefited from consultations with all three individuals throughout the academic year regarding the campus budget, TAS budget, academic planning (specifically proposals for new degree programs), and strategic planning.

SNS Dean Betsy Dumont and Interim Director of Undergraduate Medical Education Margo Vener

Dean Dumont and Dr. Vener provided updates to CAPRA on the medical education program.

Chancellor Muñoz

The Chancellor spoke to CAPRA about enrollment and his vision for the campus.

Representation on Campus Committees

CAPRA had representation on the Periodic Review Oversight Committee, the New School Work Group, and in campus discussions regarding the future of the proposed Gallo School of Management.

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 allocation of climate funds from UCOP and the state of California, rebenching, proposed increase to the UC budget, and the financial implications of the UAW contracts.

Campus Review Items

- CAPRA reviewed and commented on:
 - Revised proposal to create a Masters degree in Data Science and Analytics
 - Revised campus Centers Policy
 - Proposal to create a Philosophy Department
 - Proposal to create a minor in Aerospace Engineering

- Proposal to Create a B.S. Degree in Biochemical and Biomolecular Engineering
- Proposal to Create a B.S. Degree in Chemical Engineering
- Proposed UC Merced Institute for Climate Resilience and Equity and the distribution of climate funds
- Proposal to Create an Electrical Engineering Department
- Proposal to create a Cognitive Science Honors Program
- Proposal to Create a B.S. Degree in Public Health
- Proposed Degree and Minor in Environmental Humanities
- Proposal to Create a B.A. in Data Science & Analytics
- Proposal to Create a B.S. in Data Science & Computing

Systemwide Review Items

- CAPRA reviewed and commented on:
 - Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices
 - Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-43 Purchases of Goods and Services; Supply Chain Management

Respectfully submitted:

CAPRA members:

Kevin Mitchell, Chair (SNS) – UCPB representative
 Paul Almeida, Vice Chair (SSHA)
 Catherine Keske (SoE) – fall 2022
 Michael Findlater (SNS)
 Katrina Hoyer (SNS)
 Carolyn Jennings (SSHA)
 Venkattraman Ayyaswamy (SoE)
 Ming-Hsuan Yang (SoE)
 Holley Moyes (SSHA) – spring 2023

Senate Staff:

Simrin Takhar