

**COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION (CAPRA)
ANNUAL REPORT
AY 2023-2024**

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 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 consulted with the EVC/Provost, VC/CFO, and the VPAAS in the fall and spring semesters.

CAPRA's primary focus was on the budget requests submitted by the School of Natural Sciences, the School of Engineering, the School of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts, Extension, Library, Undergraduate Studies, Graduate Division, Academic Senate, Academic Personnel, Academic Planning and Budget, and the Office of International Affairs. Each school and academic affairs unit prepared a PowerPoint presentation for the full Deans' Council which addressed their plans to use or refocus existing resources to advance student success and unit's budget requests to advance student success; their plans to use or refocus existing resources to advance research and unit's budget requests to advance research; their plans to use or refocus existing resources to advance EJIE and unit's budget requests to advance EJIE; and, if applicable, how the unit used funding from last year's budget call, and any impacts. In addition to this PowerPoint presentation, each school and academic affairs unit prepared a spreadsheet-based summary of the resources requested, funding source and their support for school/division strategies. In spring 2024, several CAPRA members attended Deans' Council meetings to hear these budget presentations.

After intensive meetings and much discussion, CAPRA submitted its funding recommendations to the EVC/Provost on March 15, 2024. In its memo to the EVC/Provost, CAPRA explained that their method in reviewing these budget requests was to generally recommend equity promotions for staff, and support minimum but critical faculty and staff hires to support teaching needs, including more department level staffing.

Department Staffing

As in previous academic years, CAPRA continued to advocate for department-level staffing. This year, CAPRA requested department staffing plans from all three school deans and held several discussions with the EVC/Provost on any progress made on this issue.

Campus Budget and Temporary Academic Staffing (TAS) Budget

Throughout the academic year, VC/CFO Schnier answered CAPRA's questions on the campus budget and the TAS budget. The VC/CFO kept CAPRA informed on the campus revenue sources and expenditures for fiscal year 2023 including core revenues (state appropriations, indirect cost return, and tuition and fees), auxiliary revenues, and other revenue sources.

The campus also empaneled two new Senate-Administrative groups to address the TAS budget:

- The TAS Allocation Work Group was charged with making recommendations to the EVC/Provost regarding how best to reformulate the methodology for allocating TAS funding to UC Merced's three schools and to consider future adjustments as new schools emerge.
- Working in parallel, the TAS Budget Work Group was charged with developing recommendations to the CFO regarding the campus' TAS budget allocation.

CAPRA was represented on both working groups and the broader CAPRA membership was kept informed throughout the academic year on the work groups' progress.

Consultation

EVC/Provost

CAPRA benefited from regular consultation with the EVC/Provost on a variety of topics this academic year, mainly academic planning, faculty losses, department-level staffing, the campus budget and TAS budget, enrollment, and the state budget.

VC/CFO and VPAAS

CAPRA benefited from consultations with both individuals throughout the academic year regarding the campus budget, TAS budget, and new academic programs development.

AVC for Interdisciplinary Research & Strategic Initiatives

AVC Viers spoke with CAPRA about UC Merced's Agricultural Experiment Station designation. He also consulted with CoR and Divisional Council on the same topic.

Former SNS Dean Dumont and Medical Director Vener

Former SNS Dean (now EVC/Provost) Dumont and Medical Director Vener consulted with CAPRA on the proposed establishment of a Department of Medical Education in the School of Natural Sciences.

Chancellor Muñoz

The Chancellor spoke to CAPRA about faculty hires in connection with enrollment, state budget, and increased marketing efforts to boost enrollment.

Representation on Campus Committees

CAPRA had representation on the Periodic Review Oversight Committee and the aforementioned TAS Work Groups.

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 total remuneration study, UC retirement plans, TAS budget deficits, coordination of a faculty committee to consult on the next round of union negotiations, and the state budget.

Campus Review Items

- CAPRA reviewed and commented on:
 - Proposal to create a Biology BA Degree Program
 - GC's Proposed Policy for the Establishment of Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs
 - Instructional Budget Model Memo from Chair of Department of Management of Complex Systems
 - Faculty and Instructor Losses over the Last Two Academic Years memo from SSHA department chairs
 - Proposal to create an Aerospace Engineering BS Degree Program
 - Proposal to create a Data Science and Policy Analysis Minor
 - Proposal for the Establishment of Department of Medical Education
 - Draft UC Merced Agricultural Experiment Station mission statement
 - Proposal to Create a Psychology B.S. Degree Program and Proposed Amendments to the Psychology B.A. Program
 - Proposal to Create a Management of Innovation, Sustainability, and Technology B.A. Degree Program
 - Proposal to Create a Biochemistry B.S. Program

- Proposal to Create an Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology B.S. Program
- Proposal to Create a Science, Technology, and Ethics Major and Minor
- Proposal for Academic Department Name Change from “Materials Science and Engineering” to “Chemical and Materials Engineering
- Proposal to Create a Communication and Media B.A. Degree Program
- Proposal to Create a Neuroscience B.A., B.S., and Minor Degree Program
- Proposed Center for Africana Studies

Systemwide Review Items

- CAPRA reviewed and commented on:
 - Proposed APM Section 672 - Negotiated Salary Program
 - UC Regents Policy on Public and Discretionary Statements by Academic Units
 - Proposed Academic Senate Statement on UC Quality
 - Proposed revisions to APM 016 - University Policy on Faculty Conduct and the Administration of Discipline

Respectfully submitted:

CAPRA members:

Kara McCloskey, Interim Chair, SoE, UCPB representative (Spring 2024)
 Paul Almeida, Vice-Chair, SSHA
 Kevin Mitchell, SNS (Chair & UCPB representative Fall 2023; Senate Vice-Chair Spring 2024)
 Venkattraman Ayyaswamy, SoE
 Michael Beman, SNS (Spring 2024)
 Carolyn Jennings, SSHA
 David Kaminsky, SSHA (Spring 2024)

Former Members:

Matt Hibbing, Senate Chair, SSHA (Senate Vice-Chair Fall 2023; Senate Chair Spring 2024)
 Michael Findlater, Chair, SNS, UCPB representative (Spring 2024)

Senate Staff:

Simrin Takhar