

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)
Minutes of Meeting
January 22, 2025

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 1:30 pm on January 22, 2025 via Zoom. Chair Michael Beman presiding.

I. Consultation with EVC/Provost

Per CAPRA's request, the EVC/Provost provided an overview of the Academic Affairs 5% budget reduction exercise. This includes all units under Academic Affairs: three Schools, Division of Undergraduate Education, Graduate Division, Library, APO, CIE, Assessment, Academic Senate, EVC/Provost Office, and EVC/Provost budget (aside from immediate office).

EVC/Provost Dumont explained that each Academic Affairs unit was asked to complete a template that includes:

- a prioritized list of items proposed for reduction that sum to 3%, 4% and 5% of the unit's budget.
- a description of each item
- a brief statement about how its reduction fits into the unit's direction for the next three years.
- categorizing the proposed reduction as a start, a stop, redistribution, or move of a function/service

Potential sources of budget savings include:

- Reductions beyond the 5% identified by Academic Affairs units
- TAS savings (-\$1.5M projected deficit this year; Provost's office pays)
- EVC/Provost's budget (aside from office)
- Faculty vacancies

Deans Council will review and discuss all proposed budget reduction line items and order them from low to high impact on Academic Affairs as a whole. CAPRA will be provided with the budget reduction plans by Monday, February 17. CAPRA will discuss the plans in the February 19 committee meeting under executive session (voting members only). CAPRA is asked to provide feedback on the order of proposed budget reductions proposed by Deans Council based on their impact on Academic Affairs as a whole. Deans Council will discuss CAPRA's feedback at their March 4 meeting. By March 7, EVC/Provost Dumont will submit a plan to the VC/CFO.

A CAPRA member inquired whether it is possible for departments to see how many budget cuts all other departments have already made. EVC/Provost Dumont recommended that faculty ask their

deans for this information. She added that she is in regular contact with the school deans on budgetary topics including the TAS budget.

A CAPRA member asked about budget reductions in programs within units that serve the entire campus, such as the Merritt Writing Program in SSHA. While the TAS budget may be the most fungible, those budget cuts have a negative impact on students. EVC/Provost Dumont acknowledged the non-renewal of some contracts. She stated that the campus will revisit the TAS allocation model. But she also pointed out that there is a lot of budget in Academic Affairs that is not fungible, like faculty salary. Therefore, the campus has to look at other areas that do have “levers” to pull. It is critical for the campus community to pull together and think strategically, i.e. are there things we are doing that can be stopped to save money and then restarted later? Are there things we are doing that can be stopped permanently? What can we be doing more effectively?

A CAPRA member asked about the probability of a 5% budget reduction, given that some budget conversations have mentioned other percentages. EVC/Provost Dumont suggested that VC/CFO Schnier would have input on that question.

II. Chair’s Report – *Mike Beman*

The Senate Admissions and Financial Aid Committee (AFAC) Chair and VC for Enrollment Management will join the February 5 CAPRA meeting for a 20-minute consultation on enrollment. CAPRA Chair Beman asked CAPRA members at today’s meeting to formulate a list of questions/topics that will be provided to the AFAC Chair and VC for Enrollment Management in advance of the February 5 meeting.

CAPRA members suggested the following questions/topics:

- Encouraging faculty to visit high schools to recruit prospective students
- Boosting enrollment of international students. (VPAAS Spitzmueller explained that VC for Enrollment Management Scott Hagg, Executive Director of International Affairs Garrett Gietzen, and others in Admissions are part of a task force around growing international student recruitment.)
- When faculty are abroad on business, can the university provide additional funding for faculty to extend their trips by one day to speak to prospective international students? In the past, faculty have successfully created interest in UC Merced this way.
- Are there ongoing efforts to increase the number and dollar amount of scholarships for both resident and non-resident students?

VPAAS Spitzmueller offered to share enrollment projections with CAPRA.

Action: The committee analyst will distribute the above, proposed questions to CAPRA members for review and edits. The final list of questions/topics will be forwarded to the AFAC Chair and VC for Enrollment Management on Tuesday, January 28.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft December 16 meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Action Items from Shared Governance Retreat

The notes from the October 30 Shared Governance Retreat, together with a list of campus priorities that were agreed upon by the attendees, were hyperlinked on today's agenda. This item was tabled due to time constraints at the December 16, 2024 meeting.

CAPRA was asked to identify 1-2 areas to focus on for the remainder of AY 24-25 based on the campus priorities agreed upon at the shared governance retreat.

CAPRA members agreed that their areas of focus should be: budget and faculty involvement in student recruitment.

Action: The committee analyst will notify the Senate Executive Director of CAPRA's identified priorities.

V. Consultation with VC & CFO Schnier

VC & CFO Schnier continued his discussion of the below topics. This item was tabled due to time constraints at the December 16, 2024 meeting.

- A. Rising costs of financial aid (CAPRA's question from the December 2 meeting)
VC/CFO Schnier explained that during the pandemic, the campus did not package housing and dining into financial aid. VPAAS Spitzmueller added that not only is UC Merced's financial aid amount competitive, but the accompanying messaging (e.g. a letter from the Chancellor) is also well received by students. Campus leadership is working with Financial Aid to further enhance the messaging.
- B. Suggestions on potential areas for budget cuts
VC/CFO Schnier reminded CAPRA of the current budget reduction exercise. One of the areas the campus is looking at is staffing vacancies and whether these can save costs if units decide that certain positions do not need to be filled. If not staffing vacancies, then another potential area to examine is indirect cost return.
- C. Detailed breakdown of OIT increased costs
VC/CFO Schnier informed CAPRA that if they would like specific information, they should consult with CIO Dugan. VC/CFO Schnier did point out that the campus is seeing significantly higher costs on some agreements and also explained that the campus is decentralizing purchases. Some new software has been purchased to

improve campus services. A CAPRA member suggested that IT look into possible redundancies with regard to software to save costs.

VI. Consultation on Medical Education and PRIME+ program

Guests: Dr. Margo Vener, Director of Medical Education and Professor Joel Spencer, SoE

- A. Dual degree BS/MD proposal. The proposal is currently under Senate review. CAPRA will discuss this proposal at the February 5 meeting.
- B. Faculty service in the PRIME+ program

Dr. Vener provided an overview of the BS/MD proposal's key points:

- 4 majors now and open to more
- Med School follows UCSF Foundation 1 curriculum
- LCME requires site equivalency to UCSF SOM
- UC Merced, UCSF, UCSF-Fresno Partnership
 - MOU - UCM and UCSF 2023
 - UC Merced as a regional medical campus of UCSF School of Medicine
 - Future pathway to independent medical school at UC Merced
- Funding from annual state appropriation of \$15 million/year for SJV PRIME/+
 - No UC Merced funding requested for faculty, staff or department resources
 - State funding can only be used for med ed, not other campus efforts
 - Using Funds Functioning as Endowment
- Existing SJV PRIME program offers MD path for students not accepted to BS/MD
 - Inclusive for SJV students who transfer, graduate from another 4-year institution, post-bac, non-traditional pathway, etc
 - SJV PRIME medical students will start at UC Merced in 2027 with BS/MD students

Dr. Vener also shared information on the faculty in the Department of Medical Education:

- Teaching professors - PhD
 - Foundational science
 - Full time at UCM
 - Med ed primarily
- Clinical faculty – MD or DO
 - Based at UCSF-Fresno
 - Have active clinical practice
 - Part-time role teaching med ed, eg 20%

Dr. Vener then shared elements of the PRIME+ program's timeline and achievements.

Due to time constraints, Dr. Vener and Professor Spencer did not address item B above, faculty service in the PRIME+ program.

Action: Professor Spencer will email his specific request/information on faculty service in the PRIME+ program to the committee analyst together with a deadline by which he would like CAPRA's feedback. The committee analyst will share this information with CAPRA.

VII. Informational Item

- A. Former CAPRA Chair McCloskey's notes from the January 7 UCPB meeting

VIII. Executive Session – *Voting Members Only*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attest: Michael Beman, CAPRA chair