

**Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**October 10, 2019**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 3:00 pm on October 10 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Patricia LiWang presiding.

I. Consultation with Executive Director of Space Strategies & Real Estate and EVC/Provost

Director Saunders explained to CAPRA members that the Capital Financial Plan (CFP), which each campus submits to UCOP, presents the campus's capital priorities for the next six years. The CFP focuses on the current fiscal year (2019-2020) and the next five fiscal years (2019-2020 through 2024-2025) and represents critical capital, capital renewal, and environmental projects in the near term planning horizon. Director Saunders and EVC/Provost Camfield stated they would like CAPRA's input on the next fiscal year's campus capital priorities before the next iteration of the CFP is submitted to UCOP. Preparation for the next plan should begin in March or April.

Director Saunders then summarized the six major campus capital priorities that were included in the CFP already submitted to UCOP. She stated that she will distribute the CFP to CAPRA members after today's meeting.

- Backfill projects formulated to optimize the use of facilities vacated by occupancy of the 2020 buildings. Backfill projects are underway in COB 1, COB 2, SE1, and SE2.
- Identification of facilities gaps not addressed by the 2020 Project. This includes a new building for psychological sciences and public health, as well as space for the future Gallo School of Management.
- Infrastructure requirements triggered by enrollments greater than 10,000 students. This includes working with the city and county on sewer systems (required when the campus reaches a certain number of students) and the widening of roads. There is also discussion on instituting bike lanes, which would align with the campus sustainability goals.
- IT and AV infrastructure renewal programs.
- Deferred maintenance requirements in the original UC Merced buildings. UCOP has provided funding for UC Merced to conduct a conditions assessment on all original campus buildings. The Fresno Center is high on the list for refurbishment as it is well-positioned to meet some of the campus's goals, including medical education initiatives.
- Facilities necessary to support and enable new academic programs. The top priority is to build a small facility in the vernal pools to support programming on the Merced grasslands and vernal pools.

Director Saunders explained that the goal of the CFP is to keep UCOP and the state legislature informed, officially, of how much money UC Merced needs for future growth. UC Merced did not submit this type

of report regularly in the past, but EVC/Provost Camfield stated that the campus will do so moving forward. He emphasized that he would like CAPRA's input on future CFP submittals.

A CAPRA member requested that Director Saunders make a modification to the text in the CFP under backfill space projects. Currently, the language states that completion of backfill projects is critical to UC Merced's ability to continue to recruit faculty. The CAPRA member stated that they are also important to *retain* faculty.

A CAPRA member also pointed out that the Library was not included in the 2020 project and reiterated that the Library needs additional space for collections. Two external organizations have expressed interested in housing their archives at the UC Merced Library, which will make it more critical for the Library to have appropriate space. Director Saunders replied that she is working with the University Librarian on identifying a temporary solution on collections space.

## II. Consultation with Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Budget

Associate Provost Schnier presented to CAPRA a timeline of the academic planning process which he previously shared with the deans council. He stated that he will distribute the timeline to CAPRA members after today's meeting. After the deans provide their input, Associate Provost Schnier stated that he will post the timeline on a TBD campus website.

A CAPRA member asked about the role of School executive committees in the academic planning process. Associate Provost Schnier answered that the deans will coordinate academic planning activities within their own Schools, which includes working with School executive committee chairs and department chairs.

A CAPRA member expressed concern over the possibility of academic planning including "research topics" or "themes", as some departments and faculty do not organize that way and will not do so given past controversial academic planning attempts. Associate Provost Schnier replied that the academic planning process requires the aspirational goals to be mapped to the indices of success for the campus. The academic planning process will therefore be contextualized in that manner, and not around research themes or topics.

**Action:** Associate Provost Schnier will distribute the timeline document to the committee analyst who will then send to committee members.

## III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. September 26, 2019 draft meeting minutes

**Action:** The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

## IV. Chair's Report

- Chair LiWang welcomed Graduate Student Association representative Shayna Bennett to CAPRA.
- Chair LiWang reported to CAPRA members that the main topics of discussion at the October 1 UCPB meeting were the budget, state funding, the likely increase in employee contributions to the UC pension plan, and the faculty salary (on scale) increase.
- Chair LiWang reported on the main topics of discussion at the October 2 Division Council meeting: the Senate faculty's discussion with the Chancellor's advisory search committee, audit of admissions practices, a consultation with EVC/Provost Camfield on UC campuses' graduation rates, and the search for the next UC President is underway (one faculty member from UC Merced will serve on the advisory committee).

## V. Campus Review Item

- Draft charge for the proposed faculty advisory committee for IT.

CAPRA members discussed the lead reviewer's comments that were distributed prior to this meeting. CAPRA agrees that a closer link between faculty and IT is needed. However, members were not clear whether the faculty advisory committee will accomplish this goal. The proposed committee will require time and resources from both faculty and the administration, but there do not appear to be monetary resources associated with the establishment of the committee. In addition, CAPRA members requested clarity on the role of the advisory committee in decision making, i.e. whether it weigh in on the implementation of new software programs or whether it will simply be informed after another entity makes the decision.

Some CAPRA members suggested that since faculty are using the various business software applications, it may be more effective for the Senate to review proposals to adopt future software, perhaps by utilizing existing Senate committees and workflow.

CAPRA generally supported the empaneling of the faculty advisory committee but suggests that the committee should provide an assessment on its effectiveness after one year.

**Action:** The committee analyst will draft a memo and distribute to committee members for review and approval. CAPRA's final memo is due to the Senate Chair by October 22.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Attest: Patti LiWang, CAPRA chair