

**Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**October 25, 2022**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 11:00 am on October 25, 2022 in room 344 of the Administration building and via Zoom. Chair Kevin Mitchell presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Mitchell*

A. Divisional Council meeting October 18

The major discussion topics included:

- EVC/Provost will issue a memo to the Senate to formally request the creation of a committee to review the campus policy on the establishment of new Schools.
- It was announced recently that the campus will hold a separate commencement for graduate students, but this decision was made with no faculty consultation. The administration will reassess after the fall 2022 commencement but before the spring 2023 commencement.
- Consultation with Interim VC/CFO Schnier and Campus Controller Nelson on Oracle. CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated to CAPRA members that he believes Oracle issues are under the purview of CoR and Divisional Council and prefers that CAPRA not take on Oracle issues due to the many other items CAPRA has to address. He asked CAPRA members to let him know if they disagree. A CAPRA member requested to see the April 2022 CoR memo on research infrastructure obstacles that was transmitted to the administration after Divisional Council's endorsement. The committee analyst informed CAPRA that the Senate Executive Director is working with the administration on the status of the administration's response.  
**Action:** The committee analyst will forward CoR's April 2022 memo on research infrastructure to CAPRA.
- AFAC Chair Eaton continued his presentation on student institutional debt.

B. Potential CAPRA meeting on November 8

A majority of CAPRA members stated that they will attend the meeting. CAPRA hopes to use part of this meeting to hold consultations with the representatives from the Strategic Planning Teams.

**Action:** The committee analyst will confirm the November 8 meeting and will work with the administration on the consultations with the Strategic Planning Team representatives.

C. Draft Department Chair Survey

CAPRA members approved the revised survey which incorporated some of the comments submitted by a Divisional Council member.

**Action:** The committee analyst will forward the revised survey to the Senate Executive Director for Divisional Council's review.

D. Charettes for Campus Planning

A few CAPRA members stated that they are attending parts of the charettes.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. Draft October 11 meeting minutes

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

III. Campus Review Items

A. Proposed B.S. degree in Biochemical and Biomolecular Engineering

The proposal, relevant policy, and the lead reviewer's comments were linked on today's agenda.

CAPRA members agreed with the lead reviewer's comments but emphasized that requests for new faculty FTE lines be submitted through the standard campus budget call process.

Senate Vice Chair Keske suggested that future proposals for new majors should be vetted by UGC and CAPRA prior to being reviewed by the relevant School Curriculum Committee and School Executive Committee. Future proposals should include a document that confirms that the proposers consulted with UGC and CAPRA.

A CAPRA member conveyed the concerns of her SNS faculty colleagues that they were not consulted by SoE on this B.S. degree proposal. The proposed Biochemical and Biomolecular Engineering degree would create conflicts in the Chemistry department because that department is trying to develop a major in Biochemistry which means a duplication in courses between SNS and SoE, duplication in TAs, questions about shared resources between the two Schools, and issues about naming rights of the currently proposed Biochemical and Biomolecular major in SoE and the potential new Biochemistry major in SNS. In response to a CAPRA member's question about consultation, the committee analyst confirmed that the B.S. degree program proposals were issued to the SNS and SoE School Executive Committees and Senate committees for review.

Vice Provost Spitzmueller encouraged faculty members to contact Assistant EVC/Provost Laura Martin prior to naming their proposed B.S. degree programs so she can advise on any naming conflicts. It is important to avoid any naming overlaps in degree programs not only for differentiation purposes but in terms of marketing UC Merced externally.

CAPRA Chair Mitchell inquired about the possibility of the Senate extending the deadline for comments, as CAPRA needs more time to discuss.

**Action:** The committee analyst will request a deadline extension from the Senate Executive Director. CAPRA will continue this discussion at a future meeting if the comment deadline extension is granted.

B. Proposed B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering

The proposal, relevant policy, and the lead reviewer’s comments were linked on today’s agenda.

**Action:** Due to time constraints, CAPRA will continue this discussion at a future meeting if the comment deadline extension is granted.

C. Proposed Minor in Aerospace Engineering

The proposal, relevant policy, and the lead reviewer’s comments were linked on today’s agenda.

**Action:** Due to time constraints, CAPRA will continue this discussion at a future meeting if the comment deadline extension is granted.

IV. Consultation with VP AAS Spitzmueller and Assistant/EVC Provost Martin

A. Preparation for CAPRA’s future consultation with Strategic Planning teams

**Action:** Due to time constraints, Vice Provost Spitzmueller and Assistant EVC/Provost Martin will consult with CAPRA at a future meeting.

V. Consultation with EVC/Provost Camfield

A. Faculty FTE hires

CAPRA received copies of memos that EVC/Provost Camfield previously sent to School deans that announced his approval for faculty searches. CAPRA asked for clarification, as the committee was under the impression that the campus would not hire additional faculty next year due to budget constraints.

EVC/Provost Camfield confirmed that the faculty searches he has authorized are replacement FTE lines for faculty who have separated from the university or retired.

EVC/Provost Camfield reminded CAPRA that the last time the campus issued a formal call for new faculty FTE lines was when the campus was at the beginning of its multi-year academic planning process. The pandemic hampered progress on academic planning, but it was important to continue with academic planning in a timely manner. Under the new academic planning process, CAPRA no longer advises the EVC/Provost on the allocation of individual

Senate faculty lines; rather, CAPRA takes an institutional view of all academic plans and makes recommendations to the EVC/Provost on the total amounts of money that the EVC/Provost will allocate to each School to be used in accordance with the Schools' plans.

EVC/Provost Camfield informed CAPRA that the campus budget has no money for new Senate faculty. He therefore chose to keep the number of Senate faculty stable (approximately 320) and instead authorize replacement faculty FTE lines. He added that he is authorizing replacements at about a 50% rate. This percentage is not a strict rule – he arrived at this amount after taking into account teaching workload between Senate and non-Senate faculty, student credit hours, and other factors.

EVC/Provost Camfield did acknowledge authorizing one new faculty line to Electrical Engineering who recently submitted an ultimately successful proposal to the Senate to create a new major. EVC/Provost Camfield believes that that faculty line was an appropriate strategic investment.

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that he also makes Target of Opportunity hires that help diversify the faculty and benefit the campus. Lastly, he takes into account faculty retention when authorizing faculty FTE lines. He works with department chairs and School deans to retain faculty and that sometimes involves the need to make a spousal hire. These attempts are not always successful, as the “receiving department” must be willing to hire the spouse.

EVC/Provost Camfield announced that beginning next year, the campus will incorporate all faculty FTE lines into the campus budget call. As soon as he has worked out the details, he will issue a draft proposal to CAPRA and the School deans. He plans to ask CAPRA to advise him on the pots of money that he will eventually allocate to each School for faculty FTE lines, and the Schools – not CAPRA or the EVC/Provost – will decide how to allocate those individual faculty lines. He will ask for CAPRA's assistance on creating the criteria for the allocation of this funding. While the EVC/Provost will give Schools the latitude to decide how to allocate their individual faculty FTE lines so they can be nimble and respond to any shifts, he will require the Schools to submit a report to him that articulates how their faculty FTE allocations moved the campus forward in accordance with strategic goals.

EVC/Provost Camfield emphasized that the campus needs to offer enough majors to bring in more students, but also be careful to ensure that new degree programs are consistent with the campus strategic goals.

A CAPRA member asked for an update on the committee's request in a previous CAPRA meeting that the EVC/Provost provide historical faculty FTE data. (In that previous meeting, EVC/Provost Camfield stated that his office was working with APO to gather the data.)

EVC/Provost Camfield replied that his office is still working on gathering that data. He is currently working with UCOP on dashboards that would offer various types of data. This data exists on a Tableau tool. He asked CAPRA if they wanted access to the Tableau tool which does come at a cost to the campus as it involves a license, or, if CAPRA prefers to funnel its data requests through Vice Provost Spitzmueller who will acquire the data for the committee.

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that the campus is trying to create its own data lake and he would like CAPRA's advice on a data analytics roadmap. He wants CAPRA to assist him in analyzing cross-School data from an institutional perspective and wants CAPRA to be an ambassador for data curation on campus.

B. The academic planning and academic affairs budget processes

**Action:** Due to time constraints, CAPRA will discuss this at a future meeting.

VI. Consultation with VCR Wilson and Former Interim VCR Zatz

A. Climate research funding opportunities for faculty

New VCR Gillian Wilson introduced herself to CAPRA members.

VCR Wilson encouraged CAPRA members to read last Friday's ORED email newsletter which contains the slides and the recording from the recent campus town hall on climate funding. In that town hall, VCR Wilson informed attendees about the various pots of money that are available for faculty, including money being directly allocated to UC Merced and money that is available to all UC campuses via a competition.

CAPRA Chair Mitchell asked VCR Wilson how CAPRA can assist with the climate research funding opportunities for faculty. CAPRA members, VCR Wilson, and former Interim VCR Zatz then discussed the possibility of the campus establishing a climate institute comprised of centers. A CAPRA member asked about ORU status and former Interim VCR Zatz clarified that achieving ORU status takes time; per the campus ORU policy, establishing a new ORU requires a full campus review. ORUs also receive permanent, ongoing funding. The money that would be used to create the institute is just one-time funding from the state. Therefore, for the present, the future climate entity would be an institute.

CAPRA Chair Mitchell informed the committee that he spoke with CoR Chair Jay Sexton about the idea of establishing a faculty advisory committee that would provide recommendations to the campus on allocating the climate funding that UC Merced would receive. Former Interim VCR Zatz agreed with this idea and recommended contacting the Senate Committee on Committees who would populate this committee.

VCR Wilson pointed out to CAPRA that the state is looking for a return on investment to leverage federal funds and attract donors.

VCR Wilson and former VCR Zatz stated that they would consider a competitive call for the directors of the potential climate institute and three associated climate centers.

**Action:** CAPRA Chair Mitchell will speak with CoR Chair Sexton about a proposal for a faculty advisory committee.

B. Update on UC Merced ANR Status

Former Interim VCR Zatz informed CAPRA that UC Merced's achievement of ANR status will be announced at the November Regents meeting. A CAPRA member asked VCR Wilson and former Interim VCR Zatz to consider establishing a UC Merced faculty advisory board for ANR and the UCM Agricultural Experiment Station. Former Interim VCR Zatz encouraged CAPRA to continue consulting with VCR Wilson.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Attest: Kevin Mitchell, CAPRA chair