

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)
Minutes of Meeting
November 28, 2023

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 1:00 pm on November 28, 2023 in the Administration Building room 245 and via Zoom. Chair Kevin Mitchell presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Kevin Mitchell*

A. Centers Policy

CoR has revised the draft Centers policy in response to Senate committee comments from AY 22-23. Divisional Council is reviewing the draft policy and will discuss it at their November 30 meeting. CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated that CoR did address CAPRA's comments on the Centers policy from AY 22-23.

II. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. Draft November 14 meeting minutes

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

III. Consultation with VPAAS Spitzmueller

Guest: Naoko Kada, EVC/Provost's office

A. New academic programs development. VPAAS Spitzmueller's presentation was linked on today's agenda.

VPAAS Spitzmueller informed CAPRA members that as of 2023, UC Merced has 27 majors in operation (4 additional majors start in 2024). New majors are important for a few reasons: enrollment is highly correlated with the number of majors, the university can serve students who otherwise cannot access UC education, and career trends (need to prepare students for jobs in a rapidly changing world). There are four new majors in 2024: Chemical Engineering, Data Science and Analytics, Data Science and Computing, Environmental Humanities, and Biomolecular and Biochemical Engineering (2025). There are ten more majors in active proposal writing/completion stages.

VPAAS Spitzmueller reminded CAPRA members that the Accelerate Campus' Expansion (ACE) funding provided \$21 million temporary investment to help the campus jump start approximately 20 new undergraduate majors. Enrollment growth resulting from the addition of new majors is intended to fund lines allocated to the new majors and future faculty hires in other departments and programs.

VPAAS Spitzmueller uses various components in her prediction methodology:

- External factors, such as:
 - Other UC Campuses’ growth rates, their decisions on program offerings, admissions policies, and marketing efforts
 - State and national economic performance and outlook
 - Current events and media attention to specific fields (e.g., CSI, Epidemiology)
- The campus’s projections rely on the number of graduates in a given program nationwide by Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code that we are in the process of revising the projection method.
- Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data
 - Gathers data yearly from every higher ed institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs. Including, the number of students who complete an educational program
 - Number of students who complete an educational program (completion data) for Research Universities, R2 universities, and universities with 10-15K students, for programs of interest
- GRAY Associates Tools
 - Predict Program Size
 - Based on UC Merced's institutional characteristics
 - Demographic information is not included in the calculation
 - Program Scorecard
 - Is retrospective. Shows enrollment trends, capturing real-time demand and integrating job market and competitive intensity data
- Existing Programs-at UC Merced and nearby institutions (referral pool, non-enrolling applicants who go to UC Merced)
 - Are there enough new students that would be attracted to the new major at UC Merced, vs. our existing majors or other institutions’?

Support for enrollment prediction/methodology comes from the following:

- AA&S & IRDS gather relevant data such as enrollment and completion trends and employment trends using IPEDS, GRAY Associates, and existing programs at UC Merced and nearby institutions.
- IRDS compiles completion data for Research Universities, R2 universities, and universities with 10-15K students, for programs of interest
Challenging where programs are novel, interdisciplinary, or informed by regional issues

VPAAS Spitzmueller then discussed potential programs identified in 2023-2024. Other potential majors that might capitalize on UC Merced's unique characteristics include Agricultural Technology/Engineering and Wildlife, Fish, & Wildlands Science & Management.

IV. Consultation with Interim EVC/Provost Zatz

- A. Update on planning for Senate-Admin committee(s) for review of the Temporary Academic Staffing (TAS) budget model

Interim EVC/Provost Zatz stated that she, CAPRA Chair Mitchell, and Interim VC/CFO Schnier are planning for two Senate-Administrative committees. One committee will be tasked with examining how large the TAS budget should be in relation to the overall campus budget. Interim VC/CFO Schnier will likely be the administrative co-chair of this committee and a co-chair from the academic side is needed. The other committee will be tasked with examining how the TAS budget gets distributed across the existing and future schools. VPAAS Spitzmueller is the administrative co-lead of this committee and CAPRA Chair Mitchell is the faculty co-lead.

VPAAS Spitzmueller will serve on both committees and it is anticipated that both committees will overlap in their functions. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz is finalizing both committee charges.

- B. Deans Council is working on faculty vacancy savings policy (identifying commitments and allocating funds to follow; develop a multi-year plan to systematically shift both costs and sources of revenue to schools. Includes cost of course releases, administrative stipends, faculty leaves without pay, partner hires, etc.)

Interim EVC/Provost Zatz informed CAPRA that VPAAS Spitzmueller is leading this effort. The goal is to allow schools to make a lot of these funding decisions. CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated that it is important for the funding to go to the departments, not just the deans. For example, if there is not a clear understanding that departments will not lose resources if their faculty serve on the Senate, then the Senate will be unable to recruit faculty to serve, and the Senate will be weakened. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz replied that that issue needs to be discussed by the Senate-Administrative committee that is tasked with examining the size of the TAS budget.

- C. Reminder: CAPRA is invited to January Deans Council meetings when academic plans are discussed

Action: At the Interim EVC/Provost's request, the committee analyst will submit all CAPRA members' names to Assistant EVC/Provost Martin as potential attendees.

V. Consultation with AVC for Interdisciplinary Research & Strategic Initiatives Josh Viers

- A. UC Merced's Agricultural Experiment Station designation. AVC Viers' presentation is linked on today's agenda. He gave this presentation previously to CoR and DivCo.

AVC Viers informed CAPRA that VCR Wilson has requested the formation of an ad hoc working group to be chaired by Professor Reza Ehsani. Invitations to serve on this ad hoc

committee are in progress. The first item of business according to AVC Viers is to draft a mission statement and charge. UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and UC Riverside each have AES mission statements. CAPRA Vice Chair Almeida suggested that ORED work with CAPRA or CoR on the charge.

AVC Viers began his presentation by pointing out that AES is not ANR. AES are scientific research centers that investigate potential improvements to food production and agribusiness. AES and the Land Grant System is a three-way partnership between federal, state, and county governments. AVC Viers then explained the history of establishing land-grant colleges and universities in the U.S. The UC is California's land-grant institution. He then mentioned the tenets of the UC ANR strategic plan, the UC ANR network, and the list of UC ANR programs & institutes.

AVC Viers then discussed AES faculty. Their split appointment requires a percentage of the appointment to be an agronomist per APM 320 – Agronomist Series. AVC Viers then explained APM 334 - Specialist in Cooperative Extension Series. UC Merced currently has five UC ANR Cooperative Extension Specialists. For those individuals in the Agronomist series, their appointments, merit increases, or promotions are judged by research and creative work, professional competence and activity, and university and public service. Teaching is not a criterion. AVC Viers stated that at the October 12 Divisional Council meeting, members voiced their support of granting the working title of Professor of Cooperative Extension to UC Merced's current ANR Cooperative Extension Specialists.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Attest: Kevin Mitchell, CAPRA chair