

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)
Minutes of Meeting
December 10, 2013

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 2:30 pm on December 10, 2013 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Anne Kelley presiding.

I. Chair's Report

Chair Kelley updated the CAPRA members on the following topics:

--UCPB meeting on December 3. The two major topics were composite benefit rates and self-supporting graduate professional degree programs (SSGPDP).

--Provost Peterson informed Chair Kelley that his call for new FTEs will be sent after the first of the new year as he wants to wait until the campus budget is finalized. CAPRA will have to revise its timeline and may have to review FTE requests starting in April or May. Chair Kelley announced she will email Division Council and the School Executive Committee chairs to inform them of CAPRA's delayed timeline.

II. Consent Calendar

ACTION: Today's agenda was approved as presented.

III. Course Buyout Policy

Provost Peterson recently submitted a revised policy in response to Senate committees' comments on his previous iteration. CAPRA members held a lengthy discussion on the revised policy and its implications. Some committee members felt the cost of buying out a course (1/6 of salary) is reasonable, as is the provision for returning the extra funds to the School Deans. Other committee members pointed out that course buyout should not be pegged to faculty members' salaries and that the cost of buying out a course should be a fixed dollar amount that accounts for the cost of hiring a lecturer for one course. These latter committee members felt that this revised policy discourages faculty from buying out courses, taxes faculty grants, and

allocates the money to the Schools using a method that is not wholly transparent.

ACTION: CAPRA's response to Division Council will be to request that Division Council conduct research to discover how other UC campuses handle course buyout, specifically, how they determine the cost of buying out courses. Committee analyst will draft a memo to circulate among the members for review and approval. A final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by the deadline of December 13.

IV. Guests - Dan Feitelberg, VC for Planning & Budget and Emma Loethen, Interim Budget Director

VC Feitelberg shared a hand out from UCOP that summarized the various options and definitions surrounding composite benefit rates. VC Feitelberg related that the composite benefit rates issue is linked to UC PATH and the latter is undergoing further review prior to implementation. However, UC PATH will move forward after the first of the new year, so it is important to address composite benefit rates.

UC Merced currently does not budget for composite benefit rates; rather, the campus pays for the benefits as they are incurred. Composite benefit rates are designed as a planning tool to provide predictability. The handout included the four rate modeling options that were offered by systemwide. VC Feitelberg acknowledged that campuses may need to do their own modeling to decide their own options and groupings.

VC Feitelberg asked CAPRA members to share their concerns about composite benefits rates so he can relate the concerns back to systemwide. CAPRA members stated they want stability in the rate modeling. For example, when trying to hire a postdoc on a grant, it is often not possible to know whether the grant has enough money to afford the postdoc unless the benefit rate can be known before the person is hired. A composite benefit rate would achieve this.

VC Feitelberg emphasized the need for clarity on the options that UC Merced faculty are requesting so that proper analysis can be performed in order to have a more meaningful conversation as UC PATH moves forward. In response to a committee member's inquiry about whether campuses can choose to group employees differently and assess different rates on them, VC Feitelberg responded that there does need to be options for all types of employees, beyond options A–D provided by UCOP. However, there is still not enough clarity on this.

VC Feitelberg ended his comments to the committee by stating that the campus needs to consider two important issues: 1) the short term and long term (extramural funding) impacts on our faculty and 2) unfunded commitments currently on campus such as faculty start up.

V. Committee on Research's Memo on Library's 2020 Space Plan

The Committee on Research (COR) previously sent a memo to Division Council stating its concerns about the Library's 2020 Space Plan. Division Council invited all Senate committees to provide input on the memo.

CAPRA members agreed with all of COR's main points, however, CAPRA members requested clarity on COR's statement that a different unit – other than the Library – should manage the planning of study hall spaces.

ACTION: CAPRA's memo to Division Council will state that the committee agrees with COR's main points but requests an answer on which unit should be in charge of planning study hall space if not the Library. Committee analyst will circulate a draft memo among the committee members for review and approval. A final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by December 13.

VI. Systemwide Review Item - Self-Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Programs (SSGPDP)

Chair Kelley summarized the discussion that UCPB held on December 3. UCPB members requests clarification of the criteria for establishing new programs. UCPB members agreed that the new programs should either strengthen existing academic programs, serve a well-defined need for the state of California, or serve a defined student population. In other words, SSGPDP's should not exist merely to make money. CAPRA members discussed the connection to the course buyout issue: faculty may be pulled away from their obligations to their regular, non-self-supporting programs in favor of SSGPDPs. However, CAPRA members agreed that since these types of programs are not currently implemented at UC Merced , the committee will decline to comment on the systemwide request to review the proposed policy changes to SSGPDPs.

ACTION: Committee analyst will transmit a memo to the Senate Chair stating that CAPRA declines to comment on this systemwide review item.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Attest:

Anne Kelley, Chair

Minutes prepared by:

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