

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)
Minutes of Meeting
February 16, 2022

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 2:00 pm on February 16, 2022, via Zoom. Chair Kevin Mitchell presiding.

- I. Chair's Report – *Kevin Mitchell*
 - A. February 1 UCPB meeting. UCPB discussed the following topics:
 - additional enrollment of 20,000 students across the UC over the next decade.
 - 5% budget increase
 - 20% vacancy rate currently in staff positions across the UC system
 - rebenching
 - consultation with the systemwide Senate Chair who discussed the state budget, increased enrollment, and the pressure on the UC to create more online programs.
 - graduate student funding, housing costs, and labor agreements in the context of their unionization.
 - the governor's proposed budget suggests an increase in the enrollment of in-state students. There is funding in the proposed budget to compensate UC campuses for their loss in revenue as in-state students bring in less money than non-resident students. There is also funding in the proposed budget for UC campuses to do seismic retrofitting, capital projects, and address climate issues. The budget will be finalized later this year.
 - the faculty salary increase applies only to base on-scale salary, not the off-scale component.
 - student enrollment across the system has increased by 14% over 10 years. Faculty hiring has grown only 11%. Graduate student instructors have increased by 15%. Student lecturers and other graduate student instructors grew by 18%. The hiring of senior professional staff, however, has grown by 76% across the system. Within Senate faculty ranks, there has been a greater growth in teaching professors compared to research faculty.
 - B. February 10 Divisional Council meeting
 - while reporting on the February 9 Meeting of the Assembly of the Academic Senate, the Senate Chair informed Divisional Council of a concern that expanding online degree programs at larger UC campuses could damage the finances of our campus as the larger campuses' additional online programming would impact UC Merced's ability to recruit and retain undergraduate students.
 - a memorial is forthcoming from OP pertaining to a change in the rules about transfer units from the community colleges to the UC and the CSU. State law mandates that the UC and CSU have a common pathway.
 - UGC is revising the procedures for approving online courses and discussing how to track them so that programs do not end up with accidental online degrees. UGC is also working on a campus honors program proposal which will soon be submitted to Divisional Council.

- Per the Senate Chair's request, CoR consulted with IT staff on the systemwide cybersecurity policy which was implemented without Senate consultation or input. CoR also discussed with IT the new expenses related to using the UC Merced cluster that faculty had not previously budgeted for.

- II. Consent Calendar
 - A. Today's agenda
 - B. Draft February 9 meeting minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

- III. Proposal to Establish a B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering

CAPRA members discussed the committee lead reviewer's preliminary comments. In general, CAPRA supported the proposal and the program's plans for hiring more faculty. And considering the trend in technology, the Electrical Engineering program can potentially bring more grant funding to the university. However, CAPRA did wonder if the campus will be able to support the program's requested laboratory space given the increase in faculty hiring and student enrollment.

Action: the committee analyst will distribute a draft memo for CAPRA's review and approval. The final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by Friday, February 18.

- IV. LASC Memo to CAPRA and Senate Chair on Library Staffing

CAPRA briefly discussed LASC's January 31 memo addressed to CAPRA and the Senate Chair about the Library's understaffing issue. CAPRA members agreed that the Saturday closure of the Library is problematic. The Library is one of the few public spaces on campus the students have access to as we do not have a student union. Weekend closures hinder the students' ability to do their work. CAPRA members agreed that the Library needs to formulate a sustainable funding model but wondered what CAPRA's role is in this issue.

Action: CAPRA will continue the discussion of Library understaffing after LASC's memo is discussed by Divisional Council.

- V. Consultation with Assistant EVC/Provost Martin

- A. Academic Planning

Assistant EVC/Provost Martin stated that schools and divisions are working on their extended academic plans for the upcoming campus budget call. She made a small modification to the extended academic plan templates: schools will be asked to provide an itemized list of their resource requests and link them to resource request page. CAPRA will receive this information when the extended academic plans are submitted to the EVC/Provost's office.

Schools and divisions must submit their extended academic plans to the EVC/Provost's office by March 1. All requests must be received by the EVC/Provost's office by March 11. CAPRA will then review the extended academic plans/budget requests and send its comments to the EVC/Provost's office by April 4. After April 4, the EVC/Provost will consult with the Deans Council. By April 15, the administration will send feedback to schools and divisions.

CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated that the March 16 and March 30 CAPRA meetings will be devoted to the review and discussion of the extended academic plans/budget requests.

Assistant EVC/Provost Martin clarified that the upcoming budget call will relate to budget requests for operations needed to support research and enrollment growth. That will principally be staff support, but not exclusively. There will be no separate process outside of the campus budget call for hiring staff (with the exception of the Interim CFO hiring additional purchasing staff in the fall semester). She suggested that as CAPRA reviews the extended academic plans, the committee consider what schools and divisions are requesting in terms of resource sets and how those requests support the schools' and divisions' priorities as they relate to enrollment growth and research support.

B. Strategic Planning

Planning teams comprising both faculty and administrative representatives have been organized strategic plan objectives: public and scholarly influence of research; research and creative activities; educational opportunities; academic, personal, and career preparation; and international perspective. The teams are tasked with thinking about where the campus is now, where the campus wants to be by 2030, and to think about pathways for change in terms of how the campus should grow and develop in relation to the campus goals. The teams will also consider the areas in which the campus will invest in order to grow and develop.

VI. Campus Review Items

A. Academic Activity Proposal

Action: the committee analyst will inform the Senate Chair that CAPRA declines to opine.

B. Proposed Revisions to the English Major and Minor

CAPRA identified a lead reviewer.

Action: CAPRA will discuss the lead reviewer's comments at the March 2 meeting. CAPRA's comments are due to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Friday, April 1.

VII. Other Business

A. Oracle Advisory Committee

Interim CFO Schnier is empaneling an Oracle Advisory Committee to serve as a consultative body for to help disseminate information on the issues and solutions being worked on presently. In consultation with Senate leadership the committee will consist of one representative from each School's Executive Committee, one member from the Committee on Research, one member from the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation, a research administrator from ORED, a research administrator from an ORU and one of the school's financial leads.

Action: Member Ehsani volunteered to represent CAPRA on the Oracle Advisory Committee.

VIII. Executive Session – voting members only

Due to time constraints, Executive Session did not take place.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.

Attest: Kevin Mitchell, CAPRA chair