

**Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**February 21, 2024**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 9:00 am on February 21, 2024 in the Administration Building room 345 and via Zoom. Chair Michael Findlater presiding.

I. Executive Session

This session was for voting members only and no minutes were recorded.

I. Chair's Report – *Chair Findlater*

A. UCPB meeting February 6

The main topics of discussion were the following:

- i. UC retirement plans
- ii. TAS budget deficits
- iii. Weighting of students from socioeconomically disadvantaged schools (related to the Local Control Funding Formula) over three years. That weighting will benefit UC Merced as many of our students attended those schools. The UC is also changing how medical school students are weighted and will likely be reduced. It will be a three-year process for how UCOP will distribute funds to campuses.
- iv. Enrollment targets will be more closely scrutinized in terms of the budget going forward.
- v. The state budget outlook is not positive for the UCs. The 5% increase that Governor has previously given to the UCs as part of the Compact is not forthcoming this year. However, the Governor stated his intention to provide the UCs with a 10% increase next year and added that he wants the UCs and CSUs to be funded before other entities next year. The Legislature, however, is pushing back on those specific promises. The UC system and individual campuses have the option of borrowing against their short-term investments rather than borrowing on the market. Essentially, this means the UC could “pretend” it received the 5% increase from the state and then pay itself back next year. It is the decision of each campus how it wants to proceed.

B. Divisional Council meeting February 12

- i. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz gave updates on the current administrative searches.
- ii. The Senate Chair provided updates from a recent Academic Council meeting
- iii. The Senate's \$1 million portion of the \$20 million campus wide gift from donor MacKenzie Scott is nearly all committed to various faculty-related programs. There is no additional money for an endowment which was suggested previously.

- iv. Senate Vice Chair and CAPRA member Mitchell gave Divisional Council an update on the TAS work groups. The groups will produce an interim report by mid-March and a final report by mid-April.
  - v. GC Chair Scheibner discussed GC's memos on SJV PRIME+ and GC's recommendations for vetting a degree program. The memos will be transmitted to Interim EVC/Provost Zatz, SNS Dean Dumont, and Medical Director Vener.
- C. CAPRA meeting March 13.
- CAPRA Chair Findlater informed members that the March 13 committee meeting will be devoted to reviewing the budget requests that are forthcoming from the EVC/Provost's office and will be held under executive session.

II. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft February 7 meeting minutes

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

III. Draft Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) mission statement

The Senate Chair asked CAPRA to review the draft AES mission statement as provided by VCR Wilson.

CAPRA generally supported the draft mission statement but suggested the authors revise the sentence pertaining to promoting socioeconomic mobility.

**Action:** The committee analyst will distribute a draft memo for CAPRA's approval after this meeting. The memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by today, February 21, by 5:00 pm.

IV. Consultation with Interim EVC/Provost Zatz

- A. Update on state budget and what this suggests for budget call

Interim EVC/Provost Zatz provided similar updates on the state budget as Chair Findlater mentioned earlier in the meeting. The UC will not receive the 5% increase under the Compact this year, but the Governor wants to give the UC 10% next year. It is not yet confirmed from UCOP whether funds will come out of campus reserves or the UC system reserves. Interim EVC/Provost cautioned that for the current budget call, the campus will have to be frugal. Even if UC Merced uses funding from its reserves, the amount is not as substantial as that of other UC campuses. Interim EVC/Provost Zatz does not anticipate a lot of funding available for allocation for this year's budget call.

- B. Applications/anticipated enrollment

Interim EVC/Provost Zatz reported that student applications appear to be driven by the new majors the campus has implemented. A few popular programs in which students have expressed interest are: public health, sociology, applied mathematics, data science,

computer science, and chemical engineering. Also, students are expressing interest in the emphases offered by the various majors. Applications from southern California are up with some rebound from LA and Riverside counties. Applications from China, Nigeria, and Bangladesh are up but applications from India and Iran have decreased.

C. Update on new programs

Interim EVC/Provost Zatz stated that degree program proposals for business administration, neuroscience, applied philosophy, and master's in public health are forthcoming. In response to a CAPRA member's question about ACE funding, Interim EVC/Provost Zatz reminded CAPRA that under the terms of the ACE funding, UC Merced received \$21 million to help the campus jump start approximately 20 new medium-to-large undergraduate majors. CAPRA members wondered how many faculty FTE lines are being requested.

V. Campus Review Items

A. Proposed establishment of a Psychology B.S. program and proposed amendments to the Psychology B.A. program

CAPRA members discussed the lead reviewer's comments. Members were generally supportive of the proposal and the amendments but pointed out that psychology has the potential to develop new majors and will eventually require additional resources.

**Action:** The committee analyst will distribute a revised memo for CAPRA's review and approval. The final memo is due to the Senate Chair by Friday, February 23.

B. Proposed establishment of an Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology (EECB) B.S. program

Member Beman recused from this discussion due to a conflict of interest.

CAPRA identified a lead reviewer.

**Action:** The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the March 6 meeting. CAPRA's final comments are due to the Senate Chair by Friday, March 22.

C. Proposed establishment of a Biochemistry B.S. program

Chair Findlater recused from this discussion due to a conflict of interest. CAPRA Vice Chair Almeida presided over this item.

CAPRA identified a lead reviewer.

**Action:** The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the March 6 meeting. CAPRA's final comments are due to the Senate Chair by Friday, March 15.

VI. Upcoming Business – March 6 CAPRA meeting and email business

A. Proposed establishment of a MIST B.A. degree program

The lead reviewer's comments are forthcoming and CAPRA will discuss them at the March 6 meeting. CAPRA's final comments are due to the Senate Chair by March 15.

B. Proposed establishment of a Science, Technology, and Ethics B.S. degree program and minor

Member Carolyn Jennings will recuse from this discussion due to a conflict of interest.

CAPRA identified a lead reviewer.

**Action:** CAPRA will discuss the lead reviewer's comments over email and will finalize them at the April 3 committee meeting. CAPRA's final comments are due to the Senate Chair by April 3 (one-day extension to the deadline was granted by the Senate Chair).

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Attest: Michael Findlater, CAPRA chair