

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)
Minutes of Meeting
February 9, 2022

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 2:00 pm on February 9, 2022, via Zoom. Chair Kevin Mitchell presiding.

- I. Consultation with EVC/Provost Camfield and Interim CFO Schnier
 - A. Interim CFO Schnier offered to answer any of CAPRA's follow up questions on the revised student credit hour (SCH) budget model process he presented to the committee at the last meeting.

CAPRA members had no follow up questions.

- B. Staff Hiring

CAPRA Chair Mitchell asked EVC/Provost Camfield for the status on last year's staff hiring freeze. This freeze was mentioned as an item of concern in last year's CAPRA memo on the Community and Labor Center ORU proposal. EVC/Provost Camfield confirmed there is currently no staff hiring freeze. Interim CFO Schnier explained that with a staff vacancy, those salary savings are retained centrally to service the campus debt. In general, a staff position remains vacant for four months, as that is often how long the recruitment, interviewing, and hiring process takes. If the position is vacant beyond the four-month mark, savings are retained by the division rather than centrally. If the position is vacant for fewer than four months, the division has to cover the expense. EVC/Provost Camfield added that under last year's budget cuts the staff hiring freeze was implemented to avoid laying off staff. While it was the most humane option, it was not strategic. The budget call that will be issued soon will focus on the hiring of staff who support the campus research function and enrollment. EVC/Provost Camfield reiterated that the campus is focused on building up staffing levels. CAPRA Chair Mitchell asked about the status of backfill space as this, too, was one of CAPRA's concerns about the Community and Labor Center's ORU proposal. EVC/Provost Camfield and Interim CFO Schnier confirmed there is no longer a freeze on backfill projects.

A CAPRA member asked, when groups that are drafting proposals for new programs, etc. mention they need state funding, does that actually mean campus funding? EVC/Provost Camfield and Interim CFO Schnier confirmed that these groups are requesting campus funding, except for those programs (e.g. medical education) that receive a line item in the state budget. The one-time line items in the state budget are of course beneficial to the programs who receive them, but they can be problematic for the university as the one-time line item creates an expectation that the university has to fund these programs in the future.

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that the Chancellor is committed to funding various requests that were submitted last year.

Interim CFO Schnier then shared with CAPRA members a document that showed how the two, existing campus ORUs are funded from fiscal year 2014-15 to fiscal year 2020-21. He explained that ORUs should be receiving a constant 5% in indirect cost return. He reminded CAPRA members that the old campus indirect cost policy only applied to fully encumbered grants. The new policy applies to all grants. He also suggested to CAPRA that they research how other UC campuses fund their ORUs and recommend whether UC Merced should adopt those funding models.

C. Updates on Oracle financial system

Due to time constraints, Interim CFO Schnier was unable to provide updates.

II. Consultation with UCM Community and Labor Center (CLC)

Guests: Professor Ed Flores and Executive Director Ana Padilla

A. Discussion of CAPRA's AY 20-21 comments on the CLC's ORU proposal.

B. CLC's February 8 letter to CAPRA and revised Appendix A (budget)

Professor Flores and Executive Director Padilla provided CAPRA a brief overview of the work being conducted by the CLC. CAPRA members then discussed the CLC's revised budget they received on February 8. Professor Flores stated that over the past two years, he has held many conversations with the Senate and the administration which led to including a component focused on academic research into the proposed budget. A CAPRA member asked for clarification on the proposal's requested course buyouts. Professor Flores responded that faculty are engaged in several projects which necessitates the course buyouts. Another CAPRA member asked about measures of success. Professor Flores replied that the CLC is helping the university advance to R1 status through the metrics identified by Carnegie. The CLC is one of the largest labor centers in the country and serves the largest rural region. The Center also has a high level of national and international visibility. A CAPRA member pointed out that in addition to the Carnegie metrics, the CLC should also be recognized for social good. A CAPRA member asked about non-ORU funds in the revised budget. Professor Flores explained that those are funds that are built in with grant support that the Center has already acquired or is close to obtaining. A CAPRA member inquired about space. Executive Director Padilla responded that more space would be desired and the CLC is working with Executive Director of Space, Capital Strategies, and Real Estate, Maggie Saunders.

III. Chair's Report – *Kevin Mitchell*

A. January 27 Divisional Council meeting

- i. Interim CFO Schnier informed Divisional Council that he and his staff continue to address the problems with the Oracle financial system.
- ii. The Senate Chair shared his concern about the implementation of the systemwide policy on cybersecurity and the new payment procedures for the UC Merced cluster that were published with no lead time for faculty. Faculty did not budget for these new expenses.
- iii. Discussion about how the Senate will allocate the \$1 million in funding given by the Chancellor from the MacKenzie Scott camps gift. The current, proposed plan is for the Senate to spend \$250,000 each year for the next four years. Right now through July 1, 2022, the Senate proposes to use \$250,000 for faculty research (on top of the base funding of \$175,000 the Senate already has) and spend the remaining funds in one of, or all, the

following categories: graduate student travel funds, undergraduate student research funds, faculty professional development, and remuneration for graduate students who serve on Senate committees.

B. February 1 UCPB meeting

Action: Due to time constraints, Chair Mitchell will debrief CAPRA at the February 16 meeting.

IV. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. Draft January 26 meeting minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

V. Preliminary Financial Model Section of the Gallo School pre-proposal – *Patti LiWang*

Director of the Division of Management and Information Maglio has asked for CAPRA's Feedback. The Gallo School Core Team will take CAPRA's input into account before formally submitting the pre-proposal to the Senate.

CAPRA members discussed the lead reviewer's preliminary comments on the draft financial model. Overall, CAPRA found the proposed model reasonable and determined that it makes conservative assumptions about student growth and indirect cost returns. However, CAPRA requests clarification on a few items of revenue.

Action: the committee analyst will distribute a draft memo for CAPRA members' review and approval. The memo will be transmitted to Director Maglio by Friday, February 11.

VI. 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