

**Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**March 31, 2020**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 11:00 am on March 31, 2020 via Zoom, Chair Patricia LiWang presiding.

I. Consultation with EVC/Provost

EVC/Provost Camfield updated CAPRA members on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the UC. Auxiliary services are significantly affected, as the university has had to return money for parking, student housing, and dining. Students who moved out of the dorms and back to their homes have canceled their meal and housing contracts. On a positive note, the UC is set to receive a significant amount of funding from the economic stimulus bill. UC Merced in particular will benefit, given our high number of students on federal financial aid. The funding will allow UC Merced to assuage many of our students' current hardships.

APAPB Schnier and the Office of Financial Planning & Analysis are conducting stress testing and analyzing potential scenarios in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. EVC/Provost Camfield stated that APAPB Schnier will present his findings to senior leadership this Friday and will later share with the Senate.

The UC system is holding preliminary conversations about staff positions. Layoffs are not desired but no decision has yet been reached.

In response to a CAPRA member's question about faculty hires, EVC/Provost Camfield confirmed that faculty searches currently in progress will move forward. He is advocating for any failed searches this semester to be carried over to AY 2020-21 and will confirm with CAPRA whether this is confirmed.

Summer session A will be conducted remotely. The modality of summer session B is not yet confirmed. EVC/Provost Camfield stated that he hopes summer bridge will be conducted in person but this has not yet been decided.

CAPRA members and EVC/Provost Camfield then held a discussion about concerns over holding laboratory classes in the fall semester. Laboratory classes are not conducive to remote instruction. Compounding this problem is the concern over density in the laboratories and fears for student and employees' health and safety. A CAPRA member recommended that the campus draft a protocol that would dictate the number of people and time spent in laboratories at a given time to ensure safety and eliminate contamination. EVC/Provost Camfield supported

this idea and requested that the CAPRA member work with her faculty colleagues in her School on formulating talking points that he can present to the senior leadership team with the goal of generating a laboratory protocol.

Another CAPRA member pointed out that his research staff that he hired on a grant is limited as to what they can accomplish while working remotely, and he is concerned that he will not be able to complete the work required by the grant. EVC/Provost Camfield pointed out that federal funding agencies are allowing for flexibility for PIs during this time; he also recommended that faculty who have acquired industry grants work directly with industry partners on keeping research staff on projects through extensions and other sources of funds. He also advised faculty to communicate their concerns to their deans and department chairs. Senate Vice Chair DeLugan agreed to raise this issue with Division Council.

Finally, EVC/Provost Camfield informed CAPRA members that per a previously issued campus communication, the campus is designating a group of classrooms that will be sanitized for faculty use if they need to utilize them for remote instruction. The campus is still discussing how faculty can access their campus offices if necessary.

## II. Chair's Report

### A. Division Council meetings March 18 and March 30

### B. Questions from UCPB for each campus CAPRA:

- i. What are the revenue losses resulting from students leaving the campuses? (Dorms, facilities, cafeterias, etc.)
- ii. Will there be gaps in tuition resulting from students leaving the university?  
Additional question: What might the impact be to UC Merced going forward if we have lost this revenue?  
Additional question: If the crisis continues for the summer session, how does that impact our finances?
- iii. What is the expected impact of the crisis on the UC health system? On research?
- iv. It seems likely that the GO bond will not pass. This leaves the campuses trapped by the edict to seismically update buildings without adequate funds. Can this edict be re-evaluated in the context of this crisis?

**Action:** Due to time constraints, the chair will update CAPRA members on Division Council discussions at the next meeting. The aforementioned questions posed by UCPB have been or will be answered in discussions with EVC/Provost Camfield and APAPB Schnier.

## III. Consent Calendar

### A. Today's agenda

### B. Draft meeting minutes March 10

**Action:** The consent calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Campus Review Item  
A. Revised ORU policy

The Committee on Research (CoR) has revised its ORU policy to incorporate comments received from Senate committees, School Executive committees, and ORU directors in the last academic year. The revised policy is now before the Senate for a second review.

Prior to this meeting, CAPRA members reviewed the lead reviewer's comments. CAPRA members agreed with the lead reviewer's analysis that CoR did not address all of CAPRA's concerns in the original policy. A CAPRA member raised a new point about graduate programs that CAPRA members agreed should be conveyed to CoR.

**Action:** Committee analyst will distribute a draft memo containing CAPRA's comments on the revised ORU policy to the committee for review. CAPRA's comments on the revised policy are due to the Senate Chair by April 7.

V. Academic Planning Phases I and II

Per CAPRA's request in a previous meeting, APAPB Schnier revised the APWG working group report. CAPRA members had no additional comments on the revised report and turned the discussion to academic planning given the shift in focus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

APAPB Schnier announced that he and EVC/Provost Camfield will hold faculty town halls via Zoom related to academic planning, tentatively scheduled for April 16 from 2:00 – 3:00 and April 20 from 4:00 – 5:00. The topic of the town halls will be Phase II of academic planning, including timeline and discussion of budget allocation. CAPRA members pointed out that their departments and deans are currently overloaded with the COVID-19 crisis and academic planning is not a top priority at this time. CAPRA members were in favor of the idea of the town halls since academic planning does need to keep progressing, but suggested that the tone of the town halls be less focused on hard deadlines and timelines. A CAPRA member suggested that APAPB Schnier draft a communication to deans and faculty about the status of Phase II of academic planning and gauge whether an extension to the deadline needs to be granted. APAPB Schnier stated that he would like to maintain a regular dialogue with CAPRA about academic planning and stress testing he is currently conducting with the Office of Financial Planning & Analysis.

VI. Campus Budget Presentation – ***AVC for Financial & Analysis Bianca Khanona & APAPB Schnier***

AVC Khanona presented slides on the campus financial overview for fiscal years 2019 and 2020 as well as the 2021 budget planning process. She also briefly discussed the debt service and stated that the campus is trying to avoid issuing additional debt.

AVC Khanona updated CAPRA members on capital planning, specifically:

- The final delivery of the 2020 Project is scheduled for May 2020. The project is on time and on budget. The construction timeline has not yet been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Seven backfill projects are in progress and one is in the construction phase. (Backfill projects refer to renovating existing campus space as a result of the 2020 Project space assignments for faculty.)
- The campus will be implementing Oracle, a financial accounting system that will replace UC Merced's use of the UCLA's financial system.
- The General Obligation bond was rejected by voters in the California primary. Had the bond passed, UC Merced would have used some of the funds to build the Health Sciences Building (HSB). APAPB Schnier stated that discussions are being held on whether to place the bond on a future ballot. The Regents were scheduled to review the budget for the HSB at their meeting in May but the review was postponed to July.

AVC Khanona ended her presentation by stating that once her office has finalized the 2020-21 campus budget, she will share it with CAPRA.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Attest: Patti LiWang, CAPRA chair