

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)
Minutes of Meeting
April 13, 2022

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 2:00 pm on April 13, 2022, via Zoom. Chair Kevin Mitchell presiding.

I. Consultation with EVC/Provost and Interim CFO

A. Updates on BSP building

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that he is not involved in the negotiations and that Vice Chancellor Okoli and Interim VCORED Zatz are more knowledgeable. The state fire marshal has issued 18 bulletins for the campus. Bulletins 1-16 have been resolved. The campus is in the middle of resolving Bulletin 17. Bulletin 18 cannot begin to be addressed until Bulletin 17 is resolved. Pieces of Bulletin 17 are operational that the campus can resolve now and there is a plan to do so. The other pieces are construction-related which the campus has to contract and will take longer to resolve. The state fire marshal if UC Merced can move on to addressing Bulletin 18 while we wait for Bulletin 17's construction fixes to be implemented, but the marshal denied this request.

EVC/Provost Camfield informed CAPRA members that since the UC is a state institution, the state fire marshal has control over the campus. The UC has an arrangement with the state fire marshal to have our own UC Merced employee be authorized to act on behalf of the state fire marshal. But the campus lost that employee during the 2020 project. UC Merced has hired a designated official and the hope is once she is fully authorized, the state fire marshal no longer has to be on campus. EVC/Provost Camfield explained that there are two levels of concern with regard to chemicals in the BSP building. There is H occupancy and L occupancy. There is an L lab on the 4th floor in which the state fire marshal has identified an issue pertaining to the separation barrier between a lab and a lounge. This issue requires substantial reworking by the developer Webcor. This reworking will probably not be completed until the end of summer 2022.

Interim CFO Schnier confirmed that once the state fire marshal signs off on the construction-related Bulletin, it will likely take 3-4 months to complete. With regard to the Bulletin that requires operational fixes, that is a campus responsibility, such as the chemical inventory. The campus is responsible for ensuring that the process it is using for chemical inventory is meeting the standards of the BSP building. The campus has to document and illustrate to the state fire marshal that we are using the building as designed. But with regard to the construction-related fixes of the Bulletin, all the codes that the state fire marshal identified have to be fixed by the developer. L labs require the complicated, construction-related fixes. H labs require the operational fixes for which the campus is responsible.

CAPRA members shared concerns from faculty who still have not been able to move into the BSP building, specifically the BSL-3 lab. Some faculty are unable to attest that they can conduct COVID research because they do not yet have labs that are open. Faculty who do Valley Fever research are in a similar situation.

A CAPRA member asked about the contract with Webcor and whether the campus is paying them even though the building is not fully occupied. EVC/Provost Camfield replied that the campus is renegotiating the contract. Interim CFO Schnier confirmed that the campus is still paying Webcor for full occupancy at this point even though the building is not fully occupied. Webcor is contractually obligated to make the construction fixes that the state fire marshal requests. Interim CFO Schnier added that he and EVC/Provost Camfield are fully aware of faculty concerns, but they cannot elaborate further on the contract with Webcor for legal reasons.

B. CAPRA's role in future campus budget call

Interim CFO Schnier inquired, now that CAPRA has been through the budget call process, how can he and EVC/Provost Camfield integrate the committee into the future process? Where in the process does CAPRA want more consultation? How much does CAPRA want to be engaged? Interim CFO Schnier praised CAPRA's work this year and stated how helpful their budget recommendations were to him and EVC/Provost Camfield. EVC/Provost Camfield stated that he wants CAPRA's input earlier in the process so the committee can help him and the Chancellor set priorities for campus spending.

CAPRA members informed EVC/Provost Camfield that they have heard feedback from some faculty that their budget requests were left out of their Schools' revised academic plans. CAPRA was unaware of this, as the committee is only able to review the information that was contained in the plans that were submitted to the EVC/Provost's office. Interim CFO Schnier asked how the administration can formalize faculty feedback.

CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated that one of CAPRA's recommendations to the EVC/Provost was to increase staffing. He suggested that the campus needs to have a conversation about staffing separate from the budget call. EVC/Provost Camfield replied that staffing is already in the campus strategic plan in two different places: 1) what staff does the campus need and 2) how does the campus help the staff develop. He suggested that CAPRA use the campus strategic plan when making its recommendations in the future. EVC/Provost Camfield went on to state that the Cabinet members will hold a retreat this summer and they will discuss cost cutting areas, how to prioritize them, how to implement them, and how to make the implementation successful. He suggested that this topic also be added to the agenda for the annual summer Shared Governance retreat with administrators and Senate leadership.

CAPRA Chair Mitchell stated that not only does the campus need to hire more staff, but the campus needs to consider how that staff are distributed. There is a significant need for department-level staff. Interim CFO Schnier responded that if CAPRA wants to opine on campus staffing levels, the committee needs to look at the whole picture, specifically the funding streams and how additional staff will be supported by the campus. He added that CAPRA needs a fuller understanding of funding streams at the campus to see where the money is, where the money is going, and how the campus is using it, and then contextualize the staffing requests in that framework. Interim CFO Schnier stated that he wants to have this conversation with CAPRA and wants to provide the committee with that funding stream information. CAPRA Chair Mitchell agreed, but pointed out that CAPRA needs to be strategic about how it engages because the committee has limited time and resources. Interim CFO Schnier replied that he and EVC/Provost Camfield are open to whatever role CAPRA wants to play and what information the committee needs to perform that role.

II. Chair's Report – *Kevin Mitchell*

A. April 5 UCPB meeting

Action: Due to time constraints, CAPRA Chair Mitchell will provide updates at the next meeting.

B. April 7 Divisional Council meeting

- The Senate Chair shared with Divisional Council members that the Chancellor plans to create an opportunity hire for a senior faculty member with a background in education who will be tasked with spearheading a certificate program or graduate program in education at UC Merced. Some CAPRA members expressed concern over this plan and suggested that opportunity hires should be proposed through a faculty-approved process. Other committee members inquired whether this opportunity hire is leading to a future proposal for a school of education. CAPRA Chair Mitchell suggested that CAPRA should have a full accounting of faculty hiring that is made outside of the regular process.
- The Chancellor is reportedly dissatisfied with the campus's progress in diversifying the faculty. However, the campus has hired very few faculty members since the Chancellor was appointed.
- The Chancellor is continuing his efforts to obtain more funding for UC Merced. Divisional Council previously discussed Assembly Bill 2046 entitled "University of California: Inland Rising Fund" that proposes the allocation of about \$1.5 billion to be divided between UC Merced and UC Riverside for a variety of initiatives.
- CoR is revising its memo on research infrastructure that is intended to be a response to the Chancellor and EVC/Provost's comments on the original CoR/FWAF/GC memo in fall 2021 on campus research infrastructure obstacles.
- The proposal to establish a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering was endorsed by Divisional Council.

C. April 6 CAPRA Leadership Meeting with EVC/Provost

CAPRA Chair Mitchell informed CAPRA members that he simply summarized CAPRA’s budget recommendations to the EVC/Provost.

- III. Consent Calendar
 - A. Today’s agenda
 - B. Draft March 30 draft minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

- IV. Systemwide Review Item
 - A. Presidential Policy on Affiliations with Certain Healthcare Organizations
An Interim Presidential policy was issued in September 2021 to implement Regents Policy 4405. The Office of the President is now soliciting feedback to finalize the Presidential Policy.

Action: The Senate Chair will be informed that CAPRA declines to opine.

- V. Executive Session
 - A. Revised pre-proposal for the establishment of the Ernest and Julio Gallo School of Management at UC Merced.

No minutes were recorded.

Action: CAPRA will continue the discussion at the April 27 meeting.

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

Attest: Kevin Mitchell, CAPRA chair