

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)
Minutes of Meeting
April 14, 2020

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 11:00 am on April 14, 2020 via Zoom, Chair Patricia LiWang presiding.

I. Consultation with EVC/Provost

EVC/Provost Camfield announced that the campus is receiving \$13 million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Half of those funds must go to students while the other half can be used to mitigate deficits caused by the cancellation of student housing and dining contracts. Expenditures for new technology that the campus had to make in order to transition to online instruction can also come out of the CARES funds. Per a recent communication to the campus community, the EVC/Provost emphasized that COVID-19 related expenses will continue to be reimbursed by FEMA. He also mentioned that Interim Chancellor Brostrom is proposing to centralize all available funds and wants to task the Joint Council with advising him and EVC/Provost Camfield on allocation. EVC/Provost Camfield announced that he is adding Senate Vice Chair and CAPRA member Robin DeLugan to the Joint Council effective immediately. He asked CAPRA members to consider adding another member to the Joint Council.

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that UC health centers are suffering a major financial loss due to the coronavirus pandemic. The UC health centers have been forced to cancel elective surgeries and shift their focus to COVID-19 cases and research.

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that while federal funding agencies are allowing for flexibility with regard to grants, it is doubtful that state funding agencies will follow suit. This is mainly due to the fact that many state grant funds are established by referendum of the voters and any modifications would require action on the part of the state legislature or an emergency order by the Governor. UC Merced has a high percentage of faculty with state grants in research areas including water, forestry, and tobacco and cannabis.

Continuing to support graduate students is a priority for the UC. Graduate students on federally-supported loans may be eligible to receive CARE act funds, but they must be U.S. nationals and have to file a FAFSA form.

EVC/Provost Camfield informed CAPRA members that budget streams with respect to enrollment and retention of students is being monitored. He and Interim Chancellor Brostrom are in discussions with their UC counterparts about potentially reopening the admissions portal for additional transfer students. A CAPRA member pointed out that if international graduate students cannot obtain visas to come to the U.S., the campus will not have enough TAs. EVC/Provost Camfield asked APAPB Schnier to contact the Registrar and add CAPRA to the distribution list for regular enrollment updates. He added that APAPB Schnier and AVC for Financial Planning & Analysis Bianca Khanona have been conducting stress testing with an array of variables for the benefit of senior leadership's planning.

EVC/Provost Camfield stated that the campus saw an increase in summer 2020 enrollment which indicates that many students are willing to participate via remote instruction. A CAPRA member mentioned that a few students are under the impression that they are receiving a subpar education through remote instruction and suggested to the EVC/Provost that the campus prepare and issue a communication to all students in order to dissuade them of this sentiment.

A CAPRA member asked whether lab courses would be offered in summer session. EVC/Provost Camfield replied that he has asked his task force to look into this question and will keep CAPRA updated. With regard to fall semester 2020, a CAPRA member pointed out that some courses are labeled as "discussion" when they are actually labs. EVC/Provost Camfield asked the CAPRA chair to request to Division Council that Council encourage department chairs to communicate this to the Registrar.

II. Chair's Report

Chair LiWang updated CAPRA members on the April 7 UCPB meeting. The main topic of discussion was the budget impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The UC medical centers have lost an estimated \$2 billion thus far. Funds from the CARE act will help recover some, but not all, the losses. UCPB also discussed the importance of supporting graduate students and graduate student research; the committee may collaborate with CCGA and UCORP on an appropriate strategy.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft meeting minutes March 31

Action: The Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Consultation with APAPB Schnier

APAPB Schnier briefly discussed the aforementioned stress testing he is performing in collaboration with AVC Khanona. They have developed a simulation model that examines revenue flows for the campus contains variables including current enrollment, retention, state appropriations, grant dollars per faculty member, and auxiliary expenses and revenue.

Action: APAPB Schnier will demonstrate the stress testing at the next CAPRA meeting.

With regard to academic planning, APAPB Schnier reported that deans have asked for an extension of one to two months to the deadline for phase II of academic planning. The new deadline therefore may be delayed to the end of September or early October. Some CAPRA members supported the deadline extension given the uncertainty of the COVID-19 crisis. A CAPRA member pointed out that if the academic planning process gets too delayed, faculty will be dismayed and discouraged at the failure of yet another campus academic planning initiative. CAPRA members suggested a compromise in which the campus scales down academic planning and offer a more feasible deliverable with the extended deadline to phase II. Using this method, faculty's efforts will not have been wasted. APAPB Schnier agreed and pointed out that the upcoming faculty town halls with the EVC/Provost could be an opportunity to elicit faculty feedback on a possibly scaled back version of academic planning with an extended timeline.

A CAPRA member suggested that the tone of the town halls focus on higher level planning and goals/priorities that were previously identified by the campus (e.g. achieving R1 status) in order to keep the conversation focused on academic planning. It would not be efficient to focus on the near term, since everyone understands that the current situation changes rapidly. Faculty should be encouraged to find a way to think of long term goals, beyond the current crisis, with the understanding that paths to get to our goals may be circuitous. Campus leadership should also emphasize to faculty that the campus has always engaged in reactionary budgeting and now is our opportunity to be more intentional and transparent with budget and academic planning even in a resources-strapped environment.

Action: Committee analyst will confirm the dates/times of the faculty town halls.

V. Campus Review Item

A. Reading/Review/Recitation (RRR) Week draft policy

This proposal was discussed by the Senate in consultation with various key campus constituents and was refined to address comments and questions raised during deliberations.

CAPRA members agreed to decline to opine. However, members agreed to send a memo to the Senate Chair stating that if the policy is adopted, the committee would advise departments to be vigilant about potential resource implications if additional courses have to be added for any major due to the shortened instruction period.

Action: Committee analyst will distribute a draft memo for members' review and approval. The final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by 5:00 pm on Thursday, April 30.

VI. Other Business

CAPRA member Hull updated committee members on the February 26 LASC meeting. Major topics of discussion included:

- LASC will transmit a memo to Division Council – as a follow up to the 2017 memo from the University Librarian and former LASC chair – regarding the importance of involving the Library in planning for new programs due to the impact on Library resources for new programs.
- The Library is undergoing its periodic review.
- Faculty, the Library, and certain campus constituents were previously developing plans to house materials for the future Sierra Nevada/Central Valley Research Archival Hub. These plans included working with donors on identifying funding to construct a new building. Priorities have shifted in light of the coronavirus pandemic.

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

Attest: Patti LiWang, CAPRA chair