

**Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**April 17, 2024**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 9:00 am on April 17, 2024 via Zoom. Interim Chair Kara McCloskey presiding.

I. Executive Session

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

II. Chair's Report – *Interim Chair McCloskey*

A. April 15 Divisional Council meeting

- Divisional Council discussed the proposed minor in Data Science and Policy Analysis, the proposed B.A. degree program in Management, Innovation, Sustainability and Technology, and the proposed degree program in Biochemistry.
- Proposed UC Regents Policy on Public and Discretionary Statements by Academic Units

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft April 3 meeting minutes

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

IV. Consultation with EVC/Provost Dumont

A. Status update: two TAS committees

EVC/Provost Dumont reported that the two committees continue to meet. The committees will generate some recommendations that will be submitted to the EVC/Provost who will share them with the Senate. There is a parallel conversation occurring with EVC/Provost Dumont, the deans, and VC/CFO Schnier on TAS issues. EVC/Provost Dumont anticipates that the campus will be working on this for the next couple of years. A CAPRA member pointed out that one of the challenges is that TAS is only one part of the overall campus budget problem. The campus is also paying a lot on servicing the debt, and there is a big increase in facilities expenses. He inquired if there are ways to find efficiencies such as water or energy conservation. EVC/Provost Dumont responded that UC Merced's debt service relative to other campuses is small. Facilities costs are rising. All units on campus will be asked to tighten their budgets and stretch their resources. She acknowledged that the electricity costs on campus are significant. She also added that raises are absorbed by the campuses and are not paid for by UCOP.

B. status update: campus budget call

EVC/Provost Dumont thanked CAPRA for their work in reviewing the academic affairs-related budget requests. CAPRA's recommendations were closely aligned with EVC/Provost

Dumont's views. Staff salary equity was a common request across academic affairs units and new staff positions were also requested by the various divisions.

Enrollment projections look positive and EVC/Provost heard that the campus may receive some funding if enrollment grows beyond 500 in the fall but this is unclear at the moment. A CAPRA member asked what is being done for existing large programs that have sustained faculty losses. While new programs are important, the existing programs on campus also need to be protected. EVC/Provost Dumont replied that she is looking into how to fill the faculty vacancies but she needs a set of principles to work with. Another CAPRA member brought up the challenge posed by faculty leaves and sabbaticals. EVC/Provost Dumont responded that those savings do not go to the schools; rather, they go to the EVC/Provost's office to cover the debt there. She suggested that her office could do an analysis on which leaves have occurred and what it would take to be replaced. A CAPRA member pointed out that sometimes faculty will negotiate a leave or course release with an administrator but it not paid for, causing the department to deal with the effects. This is causing a significant morale and ethical problem. EVC/Provost Dumont acknowledged this difficulty and said the campus is asking for the money up front. Faculty leaves for Senate service were not previously a line item in the budget but is now. The same applies to DUE, Graduate Division, and the VCR's office. A CAPRA member stated that there are faculty who are supposed to be taking sabbaticals but are being declined because the department cannot afford to hire the lecturers to teach the courses in the faculty's absence. These faculty will lose their sabbatical credits and this is a significant problem. EVC/Provost Dumont replied that she can make a policy change to extend the sabbatical credits.

EVC/Provost Dumont related that other VC units have requested additional funding of \$25 million above their existing budgets. It is unclear whether there will be much money available as it has to come from enrollment growth. We all share this campus ecosystem and everyone has to play a part in being prudent about resources.

A CAPRA member asked how the financial status of the campus in the next few years. Faculty hear internal messages about the need for fiscal prudence, but the messaging to the public is about anticipating growth and investing in the future. CAPRA's recommendations are informed by such messages, and it is unclear what CAPRA's stance should be. For example, should CAPRA still assume there is a goal of 12,000 students? Is it okay to take on debt because the campus anticipates growth? EVC/Provost Dumont agreed that everyone needs to be on the same page with enrollment targets and projections because that will tell us what our income will be. She will have more information on that later. But there are other levers to push such as retention and graduation rates. The campus will likely be in stasis for awhile and she is working with the Division of Finance and Administration and the Chancellor.

No unit on campus has ample funds right now. We have to be prudent at the moment while we identify the milestones and steps to take to reach the state where the campus has ample resources.

A CAPRA member pointed out that when the committee makes recommendations on proposed degree programs, it assumes the requested new faculty lines are reasonable because the campus expects a certain number of enrollment. If that enrollment target is no longer feasible, then CAPRA's recommendations are affected. CAPRA would need to know updated enrollment information as soon as the administration has it. VPAAS Spitzmeuller stated that based on application data, the campus is expecting to reach 9,600 students. However, the campus does lose students to other UC campuses' wait lists. This year is also unpredictable due to the change in FAFSA form requirements. Financial aid offers will not go out until early May which is a challenge for many students and we are concerned it will impact enrollment outcomes.

V. Campus Review Items

A. Proposed Establishment of a Communication and Media Major and Minor

CAPRA Member David Kaminsky recused from this discussion due to a conflict of interest.

CAPRA members discussed the lead reviewer's comments, specifically the feasibility of the number of new faculty hires requested in the proposal. CAPRA's discussion included concerns about protecting existing large programs, enrollment projections for this proposed degree program, job outcomes for students, and whether the program would become its own research initiative or department in the future.

**Action:** CAPRA will continue discussing the lead reviewer's comments via email. CAPRA's memo is due to the Senate Chair by Friday, April 19.

B. Proposed Name Change of the Materials Science and Engineering Department to the Chemical and Materials Engineering Department.

Interim CAPRA Chair McCloskey recused from this discussion due to a conflict of interest.

**Action:** CAPRA approved the lead reviewer's memo. The committee analyst will transmit the memo to the Senate Chair today, April 17.

C. Proposed Establishment of a Neuroscience B.A., B.S., and Minor

**Action:** Due to time constraints, CAPRA will review the lead reviewer's comments via email. The draft memo will be placed on the May 1 agenda for the committee to finalize. CAPRA's memo is due to the Senate Chair by Friday, May 3.

## D. Five-Year Planning Perspectives 2024 – 2029

**Action:** Due to time constraints, CAPRA will review via email. Any draft comments received will be placed on the May 1 agenda for the committee to finalize. CAPRA’s memo is due to the Senate Chair by Friday, May 3.

## VI. Systemwide Review Items

## A. UC Regents Policy on Public and Discretionary Statements by Academic Units

**Action:** Due to time constraints, CAPRA will continue reviewing the lead reviewer’s draft memo via email today. The committee analyst will transmit the final memo to the Senate Chair today, April 17.

## B. Proposed Academic Senate Statement on UC Quality (“Characteristics of Educational Quality at the University of California”). This document was prepared by the University Committee on Educational Policy (UCEP).

**Action:** Due to time constraints, CAPRA will review the lead reviewer’s comments via email. CAPRA’s comments are due to the Senate Chair by Friday, April 19.

## C. Proposed Revisions to APM 016 (Faculty Conduct and the Administration of Discipline)

**Action:** Due to time constraints, CAPRA will decide via email whether to opine. If opining, a lead reviewer will be selected. The lead reviewer’s comments will be discussed over email and finalized at the May 1 meeting. CAPRA’s comments, if any, are due to the Senate Chair by Monday, May 6.

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

Attest: Kara McCloskey, CAPRA interim chair