

**Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**April 2, 2025**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 1:30 pm on April 2, 2025, in room 345 of the Ruiz-Administration Building. Chair Michael Beman presiding.

I. Chair's Report – *Mike Beman*

A. University Committee on Planning & Budget meeting April 1

- Ongoing discussion of the impacts of federal government actions and federal funding challenges.
- State legislators are showing support for the UC in terms of state funding. However, the full outlook of the state budget is still unknown. UCOP has formulated a UC Adaption to Disruption workgroup to assembly contingency plans. The membership of the workgroup is not yet confirmed.
- Of the total amount the UC receives in federal funding annually, \$10 billion goes to UC medical schools/centers and \$5 billion is research funding, mostly from the NIH. UCPB had a discussion on ways the UC can acquire more money, such as endowments or bond ratings.
- UCOP is discussing the possibility of creating the state version of the NSF.
- The two proposed UCSF memorials were voted down.

II. Vice Chair's Report – *Venkatt Ayyaswamy*

A. Divisional Council meeting April 1

- Divisional Council endorsed the proposed revisions to GC's Policy for Establishing Hybrid Undergraduate/Graduate Hybrid Degree Programs
- Divisional Council endorsed the proposal for a Dual Degree Program Leading to a B.S. Degree from UCM and Doctor of Medicine from UCSF
- Divisional Council endorsed the proposed amendments to Systemwide Senate Bylaw 170 and Rescission of Systemwide Senate Bylaw 192
- Divisional Council reviewed the Policy on Assurance of Safety Standards. Divisional Council and other Senate committees had concerns with several elements of the policy. All Senate comments will be transmitted to the administration.
- Divisional Council consulted with Campus Counsel on ongoing issues related to executive orders.

III. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

## B. Draft March 19 meeting minutes

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

## IV. Consultation with Physical Operations, Planning &amp; Development

**Guests:** AVC Tony Smullen, AVC Jonathan Lampman, AVC Andy Boyd, Interim EHS Director Thomas Lee, and Director of Campus Engineering Services Jim Brugger. VC Dan Okoli was unavailable.

Prior to this meeting, POPD staff were provided with the following list of questions/topics from CAPRA members:

1. The research infrastructure is rapidly decaying in SE1, how does the campus intend to budget/plan for this now and as the buildings continue to age?

AVC Lampman explained that Facilities works with the systemwide Integrated Capital Asset Management Program (ICAMP). An external group visits UC Merced twice a year and consults with building managers and other stakeholders to conduct surveys on state-funded buildings and site infrastructure. ICAMP assessments take into consideration systems that affect the campus. Subsequently, they update their database by entering information on costs, time for replacements, etc. UC Merced utilizes this database when it creates its list of funding requests. SE1 has \$44 million in deferred maintenance. Finishes such as carpeting and painting are nearing “end of life”. Ongoing infrastructure projects include:

- replacing automatic transfer switch (switches to generator during power outages). There will be coordination between faculty and building managers. Facilities hopes to complete this during winter closure.
- Replacing the reverse osmosis system by summer 2025. This will also involve coordination with faculty and Facilities hopes to complete this by summer 2025. This project is fully funded.
- replacing lighting control panels. Facilities hopes to complete this by summer 2025.
- Fan coil replacement has already been completed.

A CAPRA member asked about research equipment failures that happen due to facility failures. AVC Lampman responded that that is covered through insurance and Facilities Management pays the deductible. A CAPRA member asked for an update on SE1 water damage and mold. AVC Lampman replied that that was handled quickly, and air sampling checked out. He asked faculty to contact him if there are still mold issues.

2. How is the campus approaching the vastly different costs for renovations to PIs in the original buildings versus the 2020 buildings - is there a plan to balance the costs for equity between labs/buildings?

AVC Boyd acknowledged that he and his team share the faculty's dissatisfaction. He is negotiating with the developer to change the contract so that UC Merced can take on more responsibility for project management. It is a known problem and his staff is addressing it.

3. We need more job overlap in EHS as the campus has grown. Many of the staff and leadership positions are at a single point of failure that delays our research, and loses knowledge continuity. How is the campus addressing this need - is there a way to address this within the expanding budget constraints?

Interim EHS Director Thomas Lee acknowledged the bandwidth concerns and the gap between current and necessary staffing levels. EHS is implementing organizational changes, conducting cross training of staff, leveraging partnerships with POPD and other relevant campus stakeholders, standing up the Research Safety Committee, implementing safety culture initiatives such as the Lab Safety Coordination Program and outreach campaigns to the research community, and exploring different funding models across the UC to identify best practices.

4. Given that Biology is one of the largest programs on campus—spanning UG and Grad education as well as faculty research—it is critical that our biosafety infrastructure meets the needs of our researchers. However, we continue to face significant challenges, including frequent turnover in the Biosafety Officer role, inefficient BUA software, persistent delays in the BSL-3 facility, and EHS leadership with limited biology expertise. What steps is upper leadership taking to ensure a stable, well-supported, and knowledgeable biosafety program that aligns with the scale and complexity of biological research on our campus?

AVC Boyd acknowledged these challenges and has seen the administration make rigorous efforts to fill these roles. With regard to high turnover, AVC Boyd stated that the unit is reviewing its onboarding and recruiting processes to be very clear on roles and responsibilities. With respect to BUA software, AVC Boyd informed CAPRA that it is associated with UC Davis and is sponsored by UCOP. Changing providers is not a viable option. Discussions are moving forward for BSL startup. AVC Boyd added that interviews for the EHS Director position are occurring this week.

5. Do we have an update on building delays, and how are the delays changing our building costs?

Bulletin 16 (closets) passed inspection locally but still has to go to the state. Bulletin 17 (L Suites) and Bulletin 18 (everything else) also need to go to state review. There has been a lot of activity within the past six months to bring these projects to completion. The Chancellor is taking a keen interest in the work.

6. The POPD website (<https://popd.ucmerced.edu/>) may need some updates.

AVC Smullen agreed and those updates will be made this year.

7. What is the anticipated timeline for COB3 start/completion?

AVC Boyd stated that the bidding phase should be completed by July, and it is hoped the building will be delivered by December 2027. An announcement should be issued tomorrow on the capitol projects.

V. Executive Session – *Voting Members Only*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Attest: Michael Beman, CAPRA chair