

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)**Minutes of Meeting****May 11, 2022**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 2:00 pm on May 11, 2022, via Zoom and in the Administration building room 344. Chair Kevin Mitchell presiding.

I. Consultation with EVC/Provost and Interim CFO

A. Assembly Bill 2046 – Inland Rising Fund.

CAPRA members asked the EVC/Provost for an update on this bill as well as information on how the campus plans to allocate the funds assuming the bill passes the legislature and is signed by the governor.

EVC/Provost Camfield requested that his comments on the status of AB 2046 not be recorded.

B. Other updates

EVC/Provost Camfield informed CAPRA members that UCOP is working on a new rebenching model.

Interim CFO Schnier stated that he and EVC/Provost Camfield sent a communication to the Schools deans informing them that they can use faculty vacancies to support staff hiring.

Action: the committee analyst will request a copy of the communication from Interim CFO Schnier.

EVC/Provost Camfield confirmed that he will authorize a few faculty FTE lines for next year. The newly-approved Electrical Engineering program needs to be adequately supported and he wants to invest in other new programs. He confirmed that he will not pull vacant faculty FTE lines; he will just not fill all of them immediately. EVC/Provost Camfield added that once the budgetary “squeeze” on the campus has passed, he envisions an increase in faculty hiring. The campus will need between 100 – 200 new faculty FTE if we reach our enrollment target of 15,000 students. The campus has to make strategic investments.

Interim CFO Schnier shared his concern about the current enrollment numbers for fall 2022. The projection at the present time is an enrollment of 9,300 students. The target was 9,600. However, the campus is making efforts to increase enrollment. For example, the campus established the Chancellor’s scholarship program from which we received 140 SIRs, the Electrical Engineering

major should attract students, and Bobcat Day was very successful. But, the campus needs to be more aggressive in increasing enrollment.

A CAPRA member asked what would occur if UC Merced does not meet the terms of the MOU with UCOP. Interim CFO Schnier replied that the campus would have to make cuts. The campus is currently looking at a \$15 million deficit. But that could increase in the future when the one-time funds run out. However, he is hopeful that UC Merced can move beyond these fiscal concerns as long as the campus is thoughtful about how it spends its resources in the present time. Interim CFO Schnier emphasized that the biggest benefit of the MOU is enrollment-based incentives. If UC Merced enrolls more students, the campus receives more funding. He added that UC Merced student retention decreased during the pandemic, and he is working with the Chancellor and EVC/Provost on student retention.

A CAPRA member inquired whether there will still be a second tranche of campus funding later this year given the shortfall in enrollment. Interim CFO Schnier acknowledged there will be no second tranche of funding, however, the amount of funding that was already planned for spring - \$2.5 million – remains in place and will not be reduced. He reiterated that UC Merced needs to make investments to increase enrollment given that 98% of the campus's revenue is enrollment related.

Interim CFO Schnier offered to attend a CAPRA meeting in fall 2022 to provide an update on the campus fiscal situation. He suggested that CAPRA also invite Assistant Vice Chancellor for Financial Planning & Analysis Bianca Khanona. A CAPRA member asked if Interim CFO Schnier could share with the committee the budgets of the various Vice Chancellors. Interim CFO Schnier confirmed that he can share this information.

Action: the committee analyst will invite Interim CFO Schnier and AVC Khanona to a CAPRA meeting in fall 2022 for a campus fiscal update.

After the Interim CFO departed the meeting, Assistant EVC/Provost Martin suggested to CAPRA members that the faculty need to understand the Senate's expectations for which elements must be included in proposals to create new majors and programs in order for these proposals to more easily pass through the review process. The criteria for those expectations are contained in policies that are managed by GC and UGC.

A CAPRA member pointed out that the campus has an enrollment planning team who presumably has a more global view of how the campus needs to grow than the average faculty member. Assistant EVC/Provost Martin confirmed that the enrollment committee has identified what support schools and programs need in order to hold conversations about enrollment so that school deans can facilitate a conversation at the school level to determine useful and productive

investments. A CAPRA member stated that while he is pleased to see that the administration is having conversations about strategic directions, the process needs to be collaborative with faculty.

II. Chair's Report

A. April 5 and May 3 UCPB meetings

Action: due to time constraints, Chair Mitchell will provide CAPRA members with the meeting minutes once they are available from UCOP.

B. May 5 Divisional Council meeting

- The Chancellor's updates on Assembly Bill 2046 – Inland Rising Fund.
- The Chancellor reiterated his support for the establishment of a Gallo School.
- EVC/Provost Camfield also reiterated his support for the establishment of a Gallo School.
- Divisional Council members agreed on the procedure for the Council's May 19 meeting where members will vote on the Gallo School pre-proposal. That part of the May 19 Divisional Council meeting will be held under executive session.

C. CAPRA email business this summer

Chair Mitchell informed CAPRA members that while today is the last meeting of the semester, the committee may have to address business over email.

III. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. Draft April 13 and April 27 meeting minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Systemwide Review Item –

A. Report of the Negotiated Salary Trial Program Phase 2 Taskforce.

Hyperlinked on today's agenda were the following: background about this report as provided in a memo from Michael Brown, Provost/EVP for Academic Affairs; the Taskforce recommendations; and the CAPRA lead reviewer's comments.

CAPRA members agreed with the lead reviewer that it is unclear how this program improves on the step merit system already established in the APM. The committee also agreed that the report lacks information and therefore the committee cannot appropriately assess the NSTP at this time.

Action: the committee analyst will distribute a draft memo for the committee's review and approval. The final memo will be transmitted to the Senate Chair by Friday, May 27.

V. UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) Update

CAPRA Member Almeida informed the committee that he and CAPRA Chair Mitchell met with Interim VCORED Zatz regarding ANR. Pending Regental approval later this summer, UC Merced and UC Santa Cruz will be designated as ag experimental stations and will receive funding. Three other UC campuses already have this designation. CAPRA Member Almeida suggested that CAPRA stay informed of this impending ANR funding, and that CAPRA should weigh in on the funding allocation. CAPRA Member Ehsani added that having an ANR specialist at UC Merced would increase the campus's visibility and enhance its reputation.

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

Attest: Kevin Mitchell, CAPRA chair