

**Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**May 15, 2024**

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 9:00 am on May 15, 2024 via Zoom. Vice Chair Paul Almeida presiding.

I. Executive Session

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

II. Consultation with EVC/Provost Dumont

Prior to this meeting, EVC/Provost Dumont was provided with a list of discussion topics from CAPRA.

- How to ensure equal opportunities for all three schools to participate in major campus initiatives involving state funding? Most recent examples: AES, medical education, and state climate funds.

EVC/Provost Dumont explained that AES and state climate funds are managed by VCR Wilson. There are many opportunities and approaches for faculty in all three schools to be involved. AES and climate funds are campus resources, not resources only meant for certain schools. A CAPRA member requested that EVC/Provost Dumont keep CAPRA informed on those the funds are allocated. EVC/Provost Dumont agreed to work on messaging to the campus. She went on to explain that medical education funds are allocated directly to medical education on campus and not to SNS or another school.

- Budget call status

EVC/Provost Dumont stated that she is working with VC & CFO Schnier to finalize the budget recommendations that will be transmitted to Extended Cabinet for consideration. (Extended Cabinet is comprised of vice chancellors and most of the deans council.) Extended Cabinet will then review and transmit their recommendations to the Chancellor. The recommendations are for the entire campus, not just academic affairs units.

A CAPRA member asked approximately how much funding will be allocated to campus units taking into account enrollment projections. EVC/Provost Dumont replied that that amount is unknown at this time but she pointed out that the budget requests vastly exceeded the amount available to allocate. The May revise of the state budget is still in process. There is hope that UC Merced may break even with the allocation it receives from the state, but this is not yet confirmed given the projected state budget deficit.

- Temporary Academic Staffing (TAS)
  - Capacity building in schools

EVC/Provost Dumont acknowledged the difficulties deans have to manage TAS funds and to track them in real time as there are several moving pieces. She is working with the deans and department chairs on tracking tools to better understand their TAS budgets. The reports that the TAS work group are working on will be submitted to the EVC/Provost soon and she will share them with the deans and the Division of Finance and Administration. The goal is to determine a plan to narrow the spending gap so that expenditures are matched to needs. That plan will eventually be submitted to the Chancellor and then the campus will work iteratively on that plan this summer and through the fall semester. EVC/Provost Dumont asked for CAPRA's collaboration on this plan. She also asked for CAPRA's input on harnessing existing structures so that faculty are not continually being asked to serve on new task forces and work groups.

EVC/Provost Dumont emphasized that enrollment and retention are key. She is looking forward to working with a new VPDUE, new VC for Student Affairs, and new VC for Enrollment Management on these issues. Enrollment projects are not wholly positive but acceptable. Enrollment staff have done an excellent job working with our students on the revised FAFSA forms. VPAAS Spitzmueller pointed out to CAPRA members that historically, a large component of our first year freshmen enrollment comes from the referral pool; however, the pool is smaller this year and other UC campuses are going deep into their wait lists. But, if UC Merced can continue increasing student retention numbers, that will help the campus significantly.

A CAPRA member suggested creating incentives for faculty who are part of the decision-making process, such as teaching support or summer ninths. EVC/Provost Dumont responded that she will explore this suggestion. Another CAPRA member pointed out that new service roles for faculty should not be considered "free" and hopes to see the administration acknowledge that fact.

- Development of a plan to address faculty lines

EVC/Provost Dumont shared that she is working with the Division of Finance and Administration this summer to find funding for a few faculty replacement hires. It will be difficult to find this funding and it likely will not be much. She asked for CAPRA's input on the metrics and criteria for deciding how these faculty replacement lines should be allocated. There is more demand than supply. A CAPRA member asked about hiring through the UC President's Postdoctoral Fellowship Program (PPFP), as those individuals' salaries are paid by UCOP for the first few years of their appointment. EVC/Provost Dumont agreed that the PPFP is a great resource for hiring. The problem is how to pay for these positions after the time which UCOP funding ends and UC Merced would have to start paying their entire salaries. A

CAPRA member suggested that if the campus can invest the savings it has when hiring from the PFP, that may extend the timeline by when the campus has to begin paying their full salaries. EVC/Provost pointed out that the campus would not accrue any savings but the reduced cost for the first few years of those new faculty members' appointments would allow the campus to pay for other things. But any available funds do get spent.

A CAPRA member asked if CAPRA would be able to get access to the departments' budget requests only to review their justification for replacement faculty hires. That information would help inform CAPRA's recommendations to the EVC/Provost. EVC/Provost Dumont agreed that CAPRA should see this information and requested CAPRA's input in fall 2024 on how to prioritize the faculty replacement hires.

III. Consent Calendar

- A. Today's agenda
- B. Draft May 1 meeting minutes

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

IV. Proposed Center for Africana Studies

This proposal was on the May 1 agenda and sent to CAPRA via email. The proposal, together with the Senate's policy on the establishment and review of centers, was hyperlinked on today's agenda.

Prior to this meeting, CAPRA members received and reviewed the lead reviewer's comments. CAPRA members supported the lead reviewer's comments.

**Action:** CAPRA will review the lead reviewer's comments one last time via email. The committee analyst will transmit CAPRA's final memo to the Senate Chair on Friday, May 17.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.

Attest: Paul Almeida, CAPRA vice chair