

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)
Minutes of Meeting
September 26, 2019

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 3:00 pm on September 26 in Room 362 of the Kolligian Library, Chair Patricia LiWang presiding.

I. Consultation with EVC/Provost

EVC/Provost Camfield announced that he will not release new faculty FTE lines for AY 20-21 due to the budget shortfall caused by not meeting enrollment targets. Faculty hiring plans for AY 19-20, which are currently in progress, will proceed as planned. Any deferred faculty FTE lines and replacement lines will also proceed as normal. The faculty hiring delay for AY 20-21 only applies to new FTE lines. EVC/Provost Camfield stated that taking a break from growth will give the campus the chance to be more intentional when planning for future growth.

EVC/ Provost Camfield stated that he would like CAPRA to receive campus budget information as the campus moves toward an integrated academic planning and budgeting model. He has begun to work with the Join Council (deans and Vice Chancellors) on budget and planning issues. He added that he has begun to analyze data and resources offered by the Delta Cost Project (American Institutes for Research). The National Center for Education Statistics maintains the Delta Cost Project's database as part of its Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS). EVC/Provost Camfield pointed out that while he is researching general parameters, he acknowledges that UC Merced was built during a different economic era than other campuses, so Merced's cost structure is not comparable. Therefore, UC Merced must discuss and decide on appropriate benchmarks. He will keep CAPRA informed of his analysis of cost structures and will share with CAPRA as appropriate. EVC/Provost Camfield added that Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Budget (APAPB) Schnier is involved in these various budgeting and academic planning efforts.

EVC/Provost Camfield reminded CAPRA of the list of areas on campus that would come under integrated planning that he drafted last year in collaboration with CAPRA. He reiterated that CAPRA will be essential to the implementation of an integrated campus planning effort.

Action: Committee analyst to send to CAPRA the aforementioned planning list from the last academic year.

II. Consultation with APAPB Schnier

Associate Provost Schnier shared with CAPRA an overview of the academic budget process and AY 18-19 budget vs. actuals information for temporary academic staff for the three Schools. Prior to this meeting, Associate Provost Schnier's presentation was circulated to CAPRA members.

Associate Provost Schnier explained that fiscal year 2019 budgets were based on curriculum plans provided in spring 2018. Fiscal year 2020 is the first year of the three year “hold harmless” phase of the academic budget planning process. The campus is now entering the second year and developing fiscal year 2021 budgets. In the future, deans will determine the “local” budget allocation policy.

Associate Provost Schnier mentioned the email he recently submitted to the campus community regarding Tableau. That email explained that IRDS has been creating data to support both academic budget planning and academic planning process. The email message also announced that town halls will be held in early to mid-October. Associate Provost Schnier emphasized that School Executive Committee members will be part of the initial review group to check for “errors-of-fact”. Following this review, all information will be released to the campus.

III. Chair’s Report

Chair LiWang reported on the September 18 Division Council meeting. VCORED Sam Traina attended the meeting to discuss the Sponsored Research Services redesign initiative. VCORED Traina asked the Senate, including CAPRA, for input on two structural questions:

- 1) whether to have all sponsored projects staff report to the Office of Research & Economic Development (ORED) or to maintain some version of the current model with some staff reporting to ORED and others to schools/ORUs;
- 2) Whether to have the budget management component of research administration (contract and grants) continue to report to ORED or to have it report to the Division of Finance and Administration.

CAPRA members discussed the two questions. They agreed that though they each have opinions as individual faculty members, the committee as a whole should not provide feedback on reporting structures in the absence of an explanation of resource implications of both reporting models and associated data. To the extent that VCORED Traina’s structural questions are related to integrated academic planning, CAPRA would prefer to consult the EVC/Provost before offering advice to the VCORED. However, the lack of data and an articulation of the pros and cons of both reporting structure models hinders CAPRA’s ability to provide constructive input. CAPRA members agreed that the Senate Committee on Research is best positioned to provide feedback on questions related to reporting structures.

Action: Committee analyst to draft a memo and distribute to committee members for review and approval via email. CAPRA’s memo is due to the Senate Chair on Wednesday, October 2 for discussion at that day’s Division Council meeting.

IV. Consent Calendar

- A. Today’s agenda
- B. September 12 draft meeting minutes

Due to time constraints, this item was tabled during the meeting.

Action: Receiving no objections via email from committee members by Tuesday, October 1, the committee analyst will consider the Consent Calendar to be approved as presented.

V. Campus Review Items

A. Proposed M.S. degree in Cognitive and Information Sciences (CIS)

Prior to this meeting, the lead reviewer's comments were distributed to committee members. Overall, CAPRA members viewed the proposal positively and noted the faculty have clearly considered both their existing and future capacity to support both the MS and PhD programs in CIS.

However, possible resource issues that may be of concern to CAPRA include:

- 1) some remedial (undergraduate) courses may have to be taken by some incoming students, although this impact would likely be small;
- 2) the proposal notes that student diversity may be supported in part through "fee assistance, paid summer internship facilitation, and need-based scholarships" to offset tuition, but provides no detail on how such programs will be funded;
- 3) students in the non-thesis option may fulfill their capstone requirement by interning in industry but CAPRA may be concerned that such a program might ultimately have to be supported by new staff;
- 4) the program is intended to require one year of full-time coursework, with the thesis or non-thesis capstone completed during the following summer. CAPRA may want to understand the potential resource implications of summer enrollments.
- 5) the proposal sometimes notes various courses are "expected to be taught" on some regular basis, but it is clear that such commitments will have to be firm for this proposal to be resource-neutral.

CAPRA members then briefly discussed future proposals and alignment with academic planning. UC Merced may want to think broadly and strategically about if/where graduate growth should occur in the near-term so resources can be allocated/balanced accordingly.

Action: Committee analyst will re-distribute the lead reviewer's comments to committee members for review and approval via email. CAPRA's comments are due to the Senate Chair by Thursday, October 3.

B. Draft Charge for a Proposed Faculty Advisory Committee for Information Technology

This advisory committee is being proposed by Associate Vice Chancellor for Information Technology and CIO Ann Kovalchick.

Action: Committee analyst to follow up with committee members via email to get a volunteer to serve as lead reviewer. The lead reviewer's comments will be discussed at the October 10 CAPRA meeting. CAPRA's comments are due to the Senate Chair by Tuesday, October 22.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Attest: Patti LiWang, CAPRA chair