

Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA)
Minutes of Meeting
September 28, 2021

Pursuant to call, the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation met at 1:00 pm on September 28, 2021, via Zoom. Chair Kevin Mitchell presiding.

- I. Consultation with EVC/Provost Camfield and Interim CFO Schnier
 - A. Campus Budget

EVC/Provost Camfield began by correcting information he gave to CAPRA at the last meeting: the \$61 million for five years that UC Merced is receiving through the new MOU with UCOP is for debt service.

Interim CFO Schnier provided CAPRA with information on state appropriations. Last year, the UC system received a 10% cut while UC Merced received 3.6%. However, the campus received one-time funding to help offset the budget cut. The state has reversed the reductions and we are restored to our prior fiscal year budget levels. UC Merced's base budget for fiscal year 2021-22 is approximately \$165.8 million. This is a significant increase over the previous base budget of \$152 million. The extra \$13 million in funding includes \$6.5 million for enrollment growth in the first year of the MOU, \$1 million for student-related mental health considerations, and \$5.4 million for COVID-19 restoration from previous reductions. In addition, UC Merced received approximately \$31.7 million in one-time funding which includes UCRP cost adjustments, over \$5 million in deferred maintenance, over \$9 million from General Obligation Bond service reduction (G.O. bonds were expiring and the money was redistributed to the 10 campuses), \$10 million for two UC Merced policy centers (Center for Analytic Political Engagement and the Future of Ag) and \$375,000 for the Community and Labor Center. Finally, auxiliaries revenue is being restored.

Interim CFO Schnier explained that while these appropriations are a positive development for UC Merced, the campus budget will still be in the negative at the end of the year. This is because a large amount of the one-time funding allocated to the campus is earmarked for specific areas. The one-time funding cannot be used to cover debt. Only a small portion of the funding the campus received is discretionary. If the campus reaches the enrollment target of 9,900 students next year, the campus could receive an additional \$20 million. Interim CFO Schnier reiterated that enrollment growth is critical for additional funding so UC Merced can accomplish its goals including reaching R1 status. EVC/Provost Camfield added that he is providing Admissions the resources they need to ramp up recruitment and enrollment. He also pointed out that the campus would need a new urban services

agreement before we reach 10,000 students. The campus continues to pursue enrollment growth through transfer students.

A CAPRA member asked how the three campus centers received money through state appropriations. Interim CFO Schnier replied that local legislators identified those areas for funding, they were subsequently written into the budget, and the campus will receive those line item allocations. EVC/Provost Camfield added that this is the first time UC Merced has received such funding, and other UC campuses have received it in the past. The funding for these centers was not coordinated with, or requested by, UC Merced. It is one-time funding as requested by local legislators and is earmarked only for those centers.

B. Academic Planning

EVC/Provost Camfield discussed with CAPRA his suggestions for the committee's review of the school and division academic plans. For example, if CAPRA were reviewing a request for a new major, the committee should ask questions like: would this major lead the campus more quickly to enrollment growth? Would a research agenda in the major increase the campus grant intake? Is the major in a field that would allow the campus to succeed at its diversity goals? Do does the campus have the appropriate facilities and staff support to support the major?

CAPRA Chair Mitchell reiterated that CAPRA's job is not to second guess the school deans or division leads. Regardless of the recommendations from CAPRA or the EVC/Provost, schools and divisions do have the freedom to deviate from budget calculations. EVC/Provost Camfield agreed but pointed out that such deviation may have consequences: if a school requests a certain amount of money to accomplish a particular objective that is not met, it will be more difficult for that school to request more funding later.

II. Chair's Report – *Chair Mitchell*

A. September 16 Divisional Council meeting

The main topics of discussion were a consultation with Interim CFO Schnier about the Alpha Financials system and Oracle, a consultation with SNS Dean Dumont on the possible unit 18 lecturer strike, and online courses.

III. Consent Calendar

A. Today's agenda

B. Draft September 14 meeting minutes

Action: the Consent Calendar was approved as presented.

IV. Pre-Proposal for B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering

The lead reviewer's comments on the pre-proposal were hyperlinked on the agenda. CAPRA members discussed the lead reviewer's comments. In general, CAPRA viewed the pre-proposal favorably and focused their discussion on questions about resource needs such as how much enrollment would justify how many new faculty hires and how much lab space is required. CAPRA members also agreed that resource needs should be included in the School of Engineering's budget request.

Action: The committee analyst will distribute a draft memo for CAPRA members' review. The final memo will be transmitted to pre-proposal lead author Professor Kurtz.

V. Academic Planning

CAPRA members then discussed their strategy for reviewing the school and division academic plans. CAPRA Chair Mitchell suggested that the committee should review the plans with an eye toward the upcoming budget calls. When CAPRA reviews the budget requests in early spring, the committee should then determine if the budget requests are linked to the current academic plans. Chair Mitchell also pointed out that CAPRA gave the schools and divisions feedback on their Phase II plans last year, so CAPRA should review the Phase III plans with special attention to whether the committee's previous comments were taken into account. When CAPRA consults with the school deans and division leads later this semester, the committee should make clear that their budget requests should be connected to what is contained in their Phase III plans. Chair Mitchell pointed out that for this year CAPRA is just helping lay the foundations for the future when the campus has reached a steady state with budget calls. At this point, CAPRA should just provide the schools and divisions with feedback that would help them with their budget requests which they will submit to the EVC/Provost and CAPRA in January 2022.

CAPRA agreed to the following method for reviewing the academic plans:

- Determine whether the schools and divisions addressed CAPRA's comments from Phase II.
- Consider how the school/division current Phase III plans impact the campus as a whole.
- Consider synergies with other schools and divisions.
- Formulate questions to ask the school deans and division leads when CAPRA consults with them later this semester.

CAPRA then divided the seven academic plans among committee members.

Action: The committee analyst will provide CAPRA members with the following: CAPRA's feedback on the Phase II academic plans last year, reviewer assignments, the AY 19-20 Academic Planning Working Group Report for background, and guidelines and templates provided by Interim CFO

Schnier and Assistant/EVC Martin. CAPRA members were given access to the seven academic plans earlier this year. The committee will discuss the plans at the October 12 CAPRA meeting.

VI. Systemwide Review Item

A. Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy on Sustainable Practices

The systemwide Sustainability Steering Committee is the governing body for the Sustainable Practices Policy and reviews the policy annually for required updates and revisions. This year, the Sustainability Steering Committee approved several policy updates to the Green Building Design, Climate Protection, Sustainable Transportation, Sustainable Water Systems, and Sustainability at UC Health sections. These changes included updating specific targets and adding additional requirements.

A summary of the proposed revisions, together with a redline and clean copy of the revised policy, were hyperlinked on the agenda.

Action: Due to time constraints, the committee analyst will seek a lead reviewer via email after today's meeting. CAPRA's comments are due to the Senate Chair by Friday, October 22.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Attest: Kevin Mitchell, CAPRA chair