

**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION  
Annual Report 2020-21**

**TO THE ASSEMBLY OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE:**

**Charge of the Committee**

According to Academic Senate Bylaw 182, the University Committee on International Education (UCIE) should fulfil the following roles in systemwide governance:

1. Consider and report, in consultation with other Academic Senate committees, on matters of international education and engagement referred to the Committee by the President of the University, the Academic Council, the Assembly, a Divisional or any Senate Committee.
  - a. Report to the Academic Council and other agencies of the Senate and confer with and advise the President and agencies of the University Administration on matters concerning international engagement.
  - b. Initiate policy recommendations regarding international engagement programs and the status and welfare of international students and scholars at UC.
  - c. Evaluate and advise on UC's international service learning or experiential learning programs, except programs whose authorization and supervision is performed independently by the campuses.
2. Provide Continuing review of the Education Abroad Program and its policies.
  - a. Consult with the University Office of Education Abroad Program on future program development, including modification of the programs of existing Study Centers, establishment of new Study Centers, and disestablishment of UCEAP Programs.
  - b. Represent the Senate in the selection of Study Center Directors.
  - c. Maintain liaison with the Council of Campus Directors.
  - d. Advise the University Office of Education Abroad Program Director on all matters of international education.
  - e. Have the responsibility for the final academic review of new Study Centers and Programs after the first three years, and for regular reviews of all centers and programs every ten years or as conditions may require.
  - f. Authorize and supervise all courses and curricula in the Education Abroad Program.

**New UCEAP Programs Proposed in 2020-21**

Korea University - Approved

**Program Review Reports/Reviews**

One-Year Follow-Up Report for the 2018-19 10-Year Barbados Review

One-Year Follow-Up Report for the 2018-19 10-Year Singapore Review

One-Year Follow-Up Report for the 2019-20 Taiwan Review

2020-21 10-Year New Zealand Review – Approved

Three-Year Review of Summer Physics for Life Sciences in the UK – Approved

**Program Discontinuances/Closures**

Physics for Life Sciences Program, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)

Brunel University London

Leiden University College

University of Tasmania

## Topics of Note During the 2020-21 Year

### UCEAP

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic during the 2020-21 year, UCEAP had only 29 students abroad. Spring quarter and late start semester programs were cancelled. As of October, the program was planning on running virtual programs both full- and part-time. Because of the loss of regular programming abroad, UCEAP began to run at a deficit. The Provost agreed to a small loan from UCOP to cover necessary costs.

By March 2021, UCEAP had very few students overseas; most of them that were abroad were in China. The program continued to receive cancellations for fall. Summer programs were all cancelled except for virtual attendance. The one exception was Cambridge, which announced that it would be doing both in-person and virtual instruction. However, UCEAP said that it would not do in-person.

The program's application numbers for 2021-22 were very high. The Director met with the student health and safety team to discuss the protocols for returning to in-person instruction. UCEAP said it will not have in-person programming next year unless it feels that the protocols are reasonable and effective. In addition, the President decentralized the decision about "essential travel;" however, it was initially unclear if UCEAP would have to follow UCSB campus rules or if it will have a degree of autonomy. The program was not able to proceed until it received an exception from the President to relaunch its programs. UCEAP requested conditional exceptional approval by May 15 so that it could allow students to plan.

Visas for students to go to China were very hard to obtain. One condition for issuance was that students be given the Chinese vaccine and it is not FDA-approved. Because the vaccines being used in the US have only been given emergency approval, UCEAP could not require students to have them. The program expected that some countries would be requiring proof of vaccination to enter, and airlines might require them as well.

On July 15, The University issued its final policy regarding COVID-19 vaccinations. The policy requires (with few exceptions) that all students be vaccinated against COVID-19 if they are to be on campus, to enter a UC facility or office, or to participate in a UC program. UCEAP students are covered by – and must adhere to – this policy. UCEAP did not send students abroad in the summer, but will be sending students to a host of select countries in the fall.

There were some tensions between the campuses and UCEAP during the year. These issues were aired at UCIE and committee members discussed it from their division perspectives. The Director responded with her thoughts on the various situations and the misrepresentations she thought were held at the campus level. She asked that UCIE weigh in on what UCEAP is and how it adds value to the system.

### Supporting International Students

In fall, international students were faced with Trump administration rules and regulations. The Ninth Circuit Court of California affirmed an injunction against the Trump ruling, which would have had a detrimental effect on international students. The Trump administration also proposed a rule that would have forced the University to verify the immigration status of everyone who works for UC. It would have switched from allowing students to study for a period of time and would have replaced that with a gate; students would have needed to apply for an extension. The incoming Biden administration kept the rules from coming through.

Some campuses investigated the possibility of including global contributions in the merit and promotion

process. A proposal for introducing mechanisms for recognizing international activities in merit and promotion process was brought to UCIE by Professors Regulska and Lazzara, and after several discussions, UCIE endorsed the proposal for consideration at the level of the Academic Council and UCAP.

Many campuses decided that NRST would be waived during the pandemic. Several also extended the amount of time that students could TA. On some campuses, the decision about whether to offer pass/no-pass (P/NP) grading was left to the departments. Academic advisors helped advise students interested in using a P/NP for classes for their major or minor and informed them on how such decisions might impact their financial aid.

There was concern for international undergraduates who may be expected to attend classes or take exams in the middle of the night, particularly international freshmen. The other option, to offer asynchronous exams, is very susceptible to academic dishonesty. Some international students asked for accommodations, such as office hours that are offered during non-standard times and exams during local waking hours.

With campuses returning to on-campus instruction in fall 2021, members expressed concern about international students and their ability to get visas. Some students also may be unable to come to the US because their consulates are closed due to COVID. As of the May meeting, much was still undecided with regard to international students.

### **Acknowledgements**

Thanks to Academic Council Chair Mary Gauvain, Vice Chair Robert Horwitz, and Senate Executive Director Hilary Baxter. Thanks also to our UCEAP partners: Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director Vivian-Lee Nyitray, Associate Dean Hsiu-Zu Ho, and Director of Academic Development Sarah Abraham.

Respectfully submitted,

Sathya Guruswamy, Chair  
Julian Schroeder, Vice Chair  
Richard Kern (UCB)  
Atul Parikh (UCD)  
Victoria Bernal (UCI)  
Andrea Goldman (UCLA)

Michelle Leslie(UCM)  
Heidi Brevik-Zender (UCR)  
Alex Orailoglu (UCSD)  
Alan Shindel (UCSF)  
Erika Felix (UCSB)  
Nina Treadwell (UCSC)