

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting
Friday, March 18, 2022

I. Consent Calendar

Action Taken: *The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed 6-0-0.*

II. Chair's Report – Chair Julian Schroeder

The Chair told the committee that the letter sent to Council by UCIE about Presidential Proclamation 10043 was forwarded to the President. The Council said it would reach out to FGR about this issue. The Chair also talked about the new COVID variant and asked if it might impact student travel abroad. He also questioned if the war in Ukraine might impact UCEAP programs. The new student committee representative, Amy Chen, introduced herself.

III. Campus Updates

UCB – In 2020, 34 percent of students reported food insecurity, and in 2021, 26.5 percent reported housing insecurity. It is difficult for the campus to grow physically and it is thinking about offering study abroad to incoming freshmen to address this problem. Also, there is a big demand for online education particularly from Hispanic and Latinx students.

UCD – The campus has a very active office of global affairs and they were charged a few years ago with developing a strategic plan. They have been very involved in issues pertaining to scholars at risk. They have recently called attention to students and faculty with Ukrainian connections; they also are concerned about Russian students and staff who do not want to return to their country of origin.

UCI – The member was not present.

UCLA – The campus is concerned about the international students who have incurred unexpected expenses because of the pandemic. Flights that cost thousands of dollars were not planned. The campus has an Economic Crisis Response Team, and it offers one-time grants to people who would normally be ineligible for financial aid; international students need to be made aware of this option. The campus continues to work on the issue of mental health and how the pandemic has exacerbated concerns.

UCM – The undergraduate council is very focused on the idea of online degrees there has been a lot of discussion about hybrid programs.

UCR – The campus ran an internal search for the position of Vice Provost of International Affairs, and that search has resulted in a permanent appointment of the interim holder of that office; this will provide some stability. Riverside had 11 faculty-led study abroad programs advertised for the summer and eight have been canceled.

UCSD – The member was not present.

UCSF – The member was not present.

UCSB – The campus EAP had terrific numbers; over 800 students travelled abroad. Santa Barbara has Ukrainian students, a couple of scholars from Ukraine, and 21 Russian students. The campus held a drop-in coffee event to talk about issues related to the war and students from the surrounding regions; it was fruitful. Another issue – particularly for Russian students – is paying for things. Russian students' bank cards might not work in the future. These students are being put in touch with emergency financing resources on the

campus.

UCSC – The campus is seeing slight uptick in EAP intentions. It also recently approved one faculty-led seminar in Italy and turned down one that was proposed for Puerto Rico. Santa Cruz is moving forward with plans to establish an international center; one complication is finding the space for it. The campus has a division of global education, which is encouraging the development of faculty area groups. So far, there is one for East Asia and Oceania. The idea is that the faculty with interests in that area would work together.

IV. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership

Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Chair

The Chair informed the committee that the Regents' meeting had just been held. There was concern in the Investments Committee about the effect of the Ukrainian invasion on the markets, particularly the energy markets. There was a parallel concern in the Audit and Compliance meeting about possible cyber-attacks on the US and UC as a result of the war. Relatedly, the University announced a two-year extension on the Experian coverage. At the Finance and Capital Projects Committee heard presentations regarding four big building projects. In Public Engagement there was a report on an effort to increase the voting student members of the Board from one to two; that would require a constitutional amendment. Finally, in Academic and Student Affairs, there were discussions about the new Associate of Science degrees in physics and chemistry. These would be designed by the community colleges in consultation with UC. One Regents' session was triggered by the Senate's complaints about online tutoring services such as Chegg and Course Hero. UC Legal has said that litigation is not a viable strategy; this is frustrating. In February, the Chair and Vice Chair attended meetings of the Health Services Committee and the Special Committee on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. EVP of UC Health Carrie Byington gave a COVID update; she continues to be quite wary of the virus. Dr. Byington said that some contracts between the UC and its affiliated religious hospitals had been signed and others are underway. Vice President Theresa Maldonado addressed the Committee on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. She announced an agreement with the chancellors that stipulated that much of the work in this domain will devolve to the campuses, including each campus choosing its own patent tracking system. OP will maintain a data warehouse on campus patents and best practices, and will provide backup for licensing other legal matters.

The Chair reminded the committee that it had sent Council a letter on Presidential Proclamation 10043; Council relayed it to President Drake who wrote back agreeing. He has requested that FGR to work with the Senate on this issue.

Tax receipts are higher, but revenues may be in the balance because of the Ukraine situation and domestic inflation. The University asked the state for \$1.6B in one-time funds for deferred maintenance and retrofitting. Berkeley neighborhoods have filed a court case and the court has determined that enrollment growth on any campus as a "project" under CEQA. This triggers additional environmental impact review. The campus has been ordered to freeze enrollment at fall 2020 levels. Because fall 2020 was during COVID, enrollment was low; as a consequence, approximately 3400 undergraduate students risk not being offered acceptance to Berkeley. This may have cascading effects on the other campuses. The official estimate of the loss of money to Berkeley is \$57M, but it may be much more.

The Academic Council is trying to investigate fully online undergraduate degrees. This is a very delicate question and Senate has been deadlocked on it. UCEP has been asked to put together a set of guidelines to aid discussion. Separately, UCOP is planning on restoring retirement counseling in-person on the campuses and online.

The disabled students union at UCLA held a sit-in and called for mandatory recording of lectures and also mandatory hybrid modality. Council asked for UCAF to weigh in and they said that academic freedom does not trump the ADA but that ADA is exercised on an individual basis. The University will work to accommodate students on an individualized basis, but wholesale recording is a violation of academic freedom and also raises student privacy issues. COO Rachel Nava came to Council recently to talk about staffing at the campuses; staff who work with faculty and students are not coming back to work. The broader issue is the fraying of relations between faculty, students, and staff. The University needs to reconstitute the social contract, and this responsibility lies with President Drake.

Chair Horwitz has been working with Mary Croughan, EVC at Davis, about mitigating the effect of COVID on faculty careers. They are close to issuing a final report, the key concept of which is Achievements Relative to Opportunity (ARO). It would be a rebalancing of teaching, research, and service to reflect the exigencies of COVID; faculty careers have been really affected by the inability to conduct research due to caregiving responsibilities and similar issues.

Finally, the state legislature has charged the Intersegmental Council of Academic Senate (ICAS) to create a single general education transfer pathway through AB 928. ICAS has been given a very tight window. If the UC, CSU, and CC senates fail to meet the deadline, the task will be passed to the segment administrators, which is not desirable. Heretofore, transfer has not had a home in any Senate committee; Council has proposed a new committee on transfer that would have subject-area expertise. A charge is currently being drafted.

V. UCEAP Director's Report

Vivian-Lee Nyitray, Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director

UCEAP currently has 822 students abroad, mostly in western Europe. COVID cases have been dropping off, and no students have been seriously ill. There has been an increase in mental health issues with students, particularly with the news of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. At the start, UCEAP informed students that it was monitoring the situation and told them they should not travel to affected areas or to the neighboring countries which are quite overwhelmed with refugees. UCEAP is seeking grant funding for psychological services. Students cannot use UC counseling services while they are abroad because the psychologists are not licensed to practice out of the state. UCEAP is looking into a program called "Let's Talk," which is more informal consultation will allow students to talk about their problems and also would provide the Study Center staff some guidance. If the "Let's Talk" consultants feel that a problem is significant, they can alert local staff and connect students with local resources. UCEAP is hoping to pilot this program in the fall in Korea, where several hundred students have planned to travel and where the program has noticed a significant uptick in mental health questions this year.

Applications for summer and fall are down from previous, pre-pandemic years by about one-third. This is due largely in part to not being able to offer programs in some locations, such as Australia and New Zealand. Also, UCEAP is not offering any of its partner programs in Russia. The program also cancelled some programs that were going to be offered only online.

UCEAP is developing a first-year fall program, based on a request from four campuses which were experiencing enrollment pressures. The hope is to create programs that would provide first-year students with a cohort experience at UC in the summer - maybe an extended orientation or slightly different orientation week - followed by a fall experience abroad to relieve local pressure on housing and classrooms. UCEAP has put out RFPs with partners it has

worked with in the past; the locations are not yet set. The goal is to make these programs as affordable as possible. The program is also looking to secure guaranteed housing when the students return in the winter. NYU, Syracuse, and a few other universities have been doing this for years. This would have to be approved by UCIE.

UCEAP has two searches underway; one is for its Dean of Academic Affairs. The program has a pool that is three times larger than the last time and has several well-qualified candidates. It is hoping to make its recommendation to Provost Brown in early April. UCEAP is also searching for a Faculty Director for Spain; this search also has a robust applicant pool.

The AVP announced that UCEAP will be holding its annual conference. It is meant to be an all-UC Study Abroad conference. This was supposed to be held two years ago, but the pandemic derailed those plans. The conference will be a hybrid affair. It will have an in-person luncheon and an address from President Drake. The sessions will all be live over videoconference so that people who are not able to come in-person can participate. UCEAP is offering two-nights lodging for people who want to come; the program is trying to be as inclusive as possible.

UCEAP has been approached by the cultural education attaché from the Egyptian Embassy and a Zoom meeting has been arranged. The request to meet with them came through the Regents. UCEAP needs to do a security evaluation to have the program in Cairo reopen. UCEAP has been asked by the President's Office and Provost Brown to continue its efforts to develop a program with the American University of Armenia. UC was fundamental in the founding of AUA, the President and several previous provosts have had a strong interest in having a program with them. The Armenian students would need significant financial support if they were to come to California.

VI. Program Reviews

A. 2021-22 Scandinavia Review *Spencer Smith*

Mr. Smith presented this review and response. Overall, the review team was pleased with the program, which is in Denmark, Sweden, and Norway. One item that was discussed was the availability of STEM courses. It was advised to keep an eye on the expansions and make sure they do not get spread too thin; it is important that quality is maintained.

UCEAP has a year to make changes and will report back. The program director did recommend closing a program; housing continues to be a problem.

Action Taken: The report was approved 7-0-1 in Executive Session.

B. Proposed 2022-23 UCIE Reviews of UCEAP Programs and Call for Review Committee Nominations

Nominations should be sent to Analyst Harms by April 15.

VII. Information Item

A. Program Closure

UCEAP launched this program because it is always looking for winter quarter programming and opportunities in Spain. It had good enrollment, but participation has dropped. The other exchange partners in Spain have expanded considerably, and now UCEAP has four options in English in Spain; that is a lot. In addition, there were some challenges with the calendaring of this program and with financial aid. UCEAP will still offer the summer program with them.

VIII. Executive Session

No minutes are taken during Executive Session.

IX. New Business

There was no new business.

The committee adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Fredye Harms, Committee Analyst
Attest: Julian I. Schroeder, UCIE Chair