

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting

Friday, March 19, 2021

I. Consent Calendar

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Action Taken: The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed 9-0-0.**II. Chair's Report – Chair Sathya Guruswamy**

The Chair said that a few issues had arisen recently; she added an executive session so that the committee could discuss things unreservedly. She also noted that member Brevik-Zender would like to discuss the recent elimination of the post of Director of Education Abroad at UCR. Another item for discussion was an email from the faculty about UCEAP program closing in Argentina. A letter asking for the reconsideration of this action is being circulated; the concern is that faculty were not consulted. The Chair expressed the hope that the UCEAP Director might answer some questions about the action.

III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership*Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Chair**Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair*

Chair Gauvain said that the University had gone through a few iterations of information for the governor. As a result, there has been an almost complete restoration of funds. However, there are concerns about some line-items in the budget. Some are about specific academic issues like online courses and provisions for transfer admission. This seems like legislative overreach.

The big issue is the discussion about fall reopening. Chair Gauvain said that the Senate is working to get information from the division chairs about what is going on at the campuses. Separately, there is a revamping of the Human Resources division at OP. There are several senior positions that are being filled.

Vice Chair Horwitz said that one question being raised in regard to fall re-opening was whether there would be a vaccine mandate. Faculty voiced concern as to who would enforce such a mandate. Furthermore, there cannot be a mandate until the vaccines are no longer on emergency authorization. Another topic of discussion is the proposed affiliation between UC Health and Catholic hospitals – it is likely to be brought up at the May Regents' meeting. There is a bill from Senator Weiner that would forbid the UC from affiliating with hospitals with ethical and religious directives.

There is a question about the legality of what the President did in terms of curtailment. Also, campus policing has been a big issue. There is a question about revamping policing and campus safety.

Most campuses have a fair amount of consultation about the reopening. The counties have the final word. There is some optimism around the vaccines. Most campuses are counting on relatively high in-person teaching. Workload issues have the faculty concerned. Chair Gauvain added that she and the Vice Chair have gone to some meetings about the vaccine rollout and fall

reopening. The Academic Senates on the campuses are being consulted in various degrees by the chancellors. The workload consequences (some in-person, and some remote, synchronous/asynchronous) are not part of the equation.

The committee had questions for the Senate leadership and there was much discussion.

IV. Concerns for International Students in Light of COVID-19/Campus Updates

Berkeley – The campus has questions as to what to do about visas. The first week of classes will be taught remotely. Language classes would rather go remotely if they are going to have to be masked. Regarding international students: students who cannot come to California have to be accommodated. How will they do that without every class having a remote component? The campus has a new Director of Study Abroad. He was in charge of the Institute for International Studies before this.

Davis - The campus recently approved a minor in Global Studies. The CIE received a letter from Davis student leadership about accommodations not being given to students who are overseas. Some of the accommodations they are requesting is that office hours be offered at different times. All issues are related to the fact that they are in different time zones. The chancellor has set up a task force for reopening guidelines.

Irvine – The representative was not present.

Los Angeles – The LA campus is dealing with many of the same issues already mentioned. Undergraduate international students have been very active. They came out with a survey and a resolution that was sent to the Academic Senate and the international committee. The students want to be allowed to schedule exams during waking hours. The member read the letter from the students.

Merced – The member did not have any updates.

Riverside – The position of Director of Education Abroad was eliminated; there has been a lot of distress about this. As a result of this unrest and concern, a committee of faculty members was created from the FLEAP Directors. The group quickly mobilized and formed an organization to try to understand how this decision was made and what its implications will be.

San Diego – There have been a number of interactions of the committee that have to do with petitions and other developments that impinge on foreign students. There is a new global hybrid seminar that the Education Abroad Program has introduced. International students are 20 percent of the campus. The university decided to stop the waiver of the NRST. It has also talked about rent hikes for the graduate dorms. It will increase rent by 70 percent next year.

San Francisco – The member did not have any updates.

Santa Barbara – The campus has a new Senior International Officer. It also has a Global Engagement Specialist now. UCSB is working on its biennial student survey and has shortened it and adjusted it to the COVID context. The campus has been trying to think of ways to elevate international student voices.

Santa Cruz – The campus has a Division of Global Engagement. One thing acted on quickly was beginning a global classrooms program. Faculty pair with international partner on co-

teaching a class. There has been a lot of response. The campus has engaged in with the American Council of Education which has an internationalization lab.

V. UCEAP Director's Report

Director Vivian-Lee Nyitray

The Director said that UCEAP has very few students out in the world at this time; most of them that are abroad are in China. The program continues to receive cancellations for fall. The summer programs have all been cancelled except for virtual attendance. The one exception is Cambridge, which has just announced that it will be doing both in-person and virtual instruction. However, UCEAP has said that it will not do in-person. The program's application numbers for next year are very high. The Director met with the student health and safety team to discuss the protocols for returning to in-person instruction. UCEAP will not have in-person programming next year unless it feels that the protocols are reasonable and effective. There are two hurdles that have to pass. The President has decentralized the decisions about "essential travel." UCEAP is looking to the UCSB Chancellor to give it the documentation that will explain if it is to follow campus rules or if it will have a degree of autonomy. The program still cannot proceed until it has an exception from the President to relaunch its programs. UCEAP is requesting conditional exceptional approval by May 15 so that it can allow students to plan. The program is not running any homestay programs in the fall. It expects a low enrollment for the fall but a stronger return in the spring. The suspension of programming has resulted in budget implications; UCEAP is "burning through" its carryforward from the past. It has vacated its Fiat Lux captive insurance policy and is seeking a loan from UCOP. In addition, it has had to lay off one or two staff people abroad. Visas for students to go to China are going to be very hard to obtain. One condition is that students would have had to use the Chinese vaccine and it is not FDA approved. Because the vaccines being used in the US have only been given emergency approval, UCEAP cannot require students to have them. The program expects that some countries will be requiring proof of vaccination to enter, and airlines might be requiring them as well. UCEAP might offer exemptions in certain cases, but it needs to make sure that its exceptions are accepted by others. The Provost's desire is that the University would require that all students be vaccinated.

UCEAP has decided not to offer programs in Hong Kong in the fall (except virtual) until there are legislative elections and then the program will be developing new guidance for students who might be travelling there so they would have an understanding of the consequences of talking about the government.

There are some tensions between the campuses and UCEAP. The Director has explained them to the senior international officers (SIOs) so they could understand UCEAP's position. UCEAP is an academic unit of UC and it desires to provide services, but we can't do things nine different ways. Maybe UCEAP would offer a suite of programs and campuses could choose. Its mandate is to provide opportunities that are open to all UC students. She asked that UCIE ought to weigh in on what UCEAP is and how it adds value to the system.

The Director thanked the members of the Summer Physics review committee. It was a challenging review and the report came too recently for it to be sent out for comment and returned for UCIE's deadline. She said that UCEAP would finish responding to the report and would bring it to the committee at the next meeting.

Chair Guruswamy asked the Director about the letter about the Argentina program closure. The

letter expresses the strong interest from faculty about programs that might increase enrollment. It would be nice to know why it was closed; as there was no consultation with the faculty? The Director responded it would be very helpful for UCIE to discuss how closely faculty want to be involved. In this particular case, there was a convergence of factors: enrollment was very low, a long-time staff person retired, the financial situation was dire, and COVID arose. The other staff person had not been there as long. She said that this situation illustrates the tension between the campuses and UCEAP. At the last SIO meeting, they said UCEAP had too many offerings and that it should narrow its portfolio. But anytime UCEAP reduces programs, people are unhappy. The Director said that the program is taking this year to consider how it operates in Argentina and Chile. The committee discussed the situation and decided to have an item about campus/UCEAP relationships at the next meeting.

VI. UCEAP Associate Dean's Report

Associate Dean Hsiu-Zu Ho

The Associate Dean shared her screen. She told the committee that AI grant proposals are due April 30. In the past, the grants program has had a budget of \$50K, and UCEAP is reducing it to \$15K. Calls for proposals have gone out. The Associate Dean showed bullets of major requirements, including the stipulation that there be a collaboration between one staff and one faculty member. She showed a chart of AI department grants that have been funded. Awardees include academic units as well as departments. Associate Dean Ho reminded the committee that she had demoed data sources that the UCEAP research department and she have worked on together. She showed a Tableau report on AI Initiatives. The Associate Dean told the committee that there is a syllabi repository and a template to follow. Another resource she shared is the language study link which shows systemwide the percentage of UCEAP students who took language courses and the languages they took. This data has been made accessible to faculty.

Associate Dean Ho showed the committee alumni program data. This data gives a sense of participation across the decades from when UCEAP began. Viewers can see the count by country since 1962 and can download the data. Campus-specific data is also available, as is differentiation by gender.

VII. Information Item

A. Program Closures

Brunel University in London – Interest in the program was very low. UCEAP thought it would do well because there was a lot of interest in London generally, but there was a high GPA requirement and the university was outside of London.

Leiden University College – Students really liked Leiden, but UCEAP was only given 10 spots and Leiden did not want to increase the number. That was not sustainable for UC.

University of Tasmania – UCEAP closed this program a few years ago and UCSD asked them to reopen it. It still has no students; students are attracted to the major cities in Australia.

VIII. Executive Session

Minutes are not taken during Executive Session

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Fredye Harms, Committee Analyst
Attest: Sathya Guruswamy, UCIE Chair