



**UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION**

**Minutes of Meeting**

Friday, March 21, 2025

**In Attendance:** Michelle Leslie (Chair), Jennifer Schultens (Vice Chair), Johan Walden (UCB), John Bolander (UCD), Marco Giovannini (UCLA), Greg Wright (UCM), Cecilia Cheung (UCR – morning), Konstantinos Karydis (UCR – afternoon), Krislert Samphantharak (UCSD), Christopher Kruegel (UCSB), Camilo Gómez-Rivas (UCSC), Steven Cheung, Ahmet Palazoglu, Sarah Abraham, Peter Graham, David Lopez-Carr, Vivian-Lee Nyitray, Mohit Saraswat (student), and Fredye Harms (analyst)

**I. Approval of Agenda and Minutes**

***Action Taken:*** *The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed 9-0-0.*

**II. Chair's Report**

*Chair Michelle Leslie*

Chair Leslie reported that the UCEAP Advisory Board met at the end of February. These meetings are primarily focused on budget and finance; it seems that the programs are in good shape. Members discussed the participation fee for specific programs. UCEAP remarked that these might generate enough revenue to support other programs. This suggestion ultimately was approved. The Advisory Board also discussed the search for the new UCEAP executive director. Chair Leslie said that there was a robust pool, and the search committee has narrowed the pool to approximately 10 applicants. The finalists will go to UCSB in April for interviews.

**III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership**

*Steven W. Cheung, Academic Senate Chair*

*Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Vice Chair*

Senate Chair Cheung remarked that he and the Vice Chair were in Los Angeles recently for the Regents' meeting. The security was quite heavy.

Faculty discipline continues to be a matter of interest for the Regents. A joint Senate/administration workgroup on faculty discipline and procedures has sent a report to the Provost, and there are several pieces she would like the group to explore further. It is likely that most P&T cases will remain at the campus, but if the campuses have difficulty assembling a committee, a case may be sent a systemwide committee. There has also been discussion about shortening the investigation phase and the creation of a case

monitoring system, which is very - and likely prohibitively - expensive. The issue of simultaneous merit and disciplinary actions will be handled in the fall.

At the March Regents' meeting the President announced a hiring freeze. At the same meeting, the Regents directed President Drake - who directed Provost Newman - to eliminate the use of diversity statements in hiring. However, the APM still allows for recognition of DEI efforts. The President said that the University's values have not changed.

Chair Cheung observed that the budget situation is difficult. However, OP has been working with Sacramento to soften the reduction. Similarly, many White House executive orders have had an extraordinary impact on the University. He said that there is a real need to communicate the value of UC's work in higher education in more tangible ways that the public can understand. He added that American prosperity is inextricably tied to investments in education and research. He has been asked if philanthropy will be able to fill in the federal pullback gap; it will not.

The Senate Chair explained that he and the Vice Chair are working to develop a committee called UCAD (UC Adaptation to Disruptions), which has the following goal and four topic areas:

**Task Force Charge Goal**

The Task Force will conduct relevant analyses and align its planning efforts with UC's longstanding commitment to access, inclusivity, and excellence. The focus will be on assessing current serious threats and developing viable response options across multiple scenarios in each of the following four priority areas:

1. Restructuring of academic programs,
2. Resizing of programs and the workforce,
3. Recalibration of growth objectives, and
4. Realignment of funding sources with mission activities

Vice Chair Palazoglu added that the task force consists of several members of Council and will invite members of the administration to consult on specific items. The group will be meeting weekly and plans to put together a website for information and updates.

Chair Cheung stated that there will be a special meeting of the Assembly next week by petition to address three items: the common calendar and the rights of divisions, a petition to move the effective date of salary adjustments for administrators at the Dean level and above to October first (the same date as it is for the regular faculty) and UCSF memorials for extending Senate membership to clinical faculty.

The Senate Chair updated the committee on the ongoing senior leadership searches. The new president should be announced at the May Regents' meeting. The Provost made an offer in advance of the hiring freeze for the candidate for vice provost position. The Santa Barbara and Riverside chancellors should be hired before the President retires in June.

At Riverside, there is an interest in developing a health enterprise and many Regents understand the need. VP Rubin presented a proposal on what that might look like. The

Regents are concerned about the financial sustainability of this plan. More information will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

Vice Chair Palazoglu said that there is an ongoing search for a new UCEAP director which is in its final stages.

Members had questions and there was discussion.

#### **IV. UCEAP Director's Report**

*Vivian-Lee Nyitray, UCEAP Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director*

Executive Director Nyitray reported that UCEAP is in the middle for search for the Director of Reciprocal Relations. The pool has been established and her office was on the cusp of setting up interviews when the systemwide hiring freeze was announced. She has reached out to Chancellor Yang and President Drake about possibly getting an exception to the freeze for this position. She noted that the other aspect of the hiring directive had to do with scaling back business travel. Her office previously arranged bus tours to familiarize UCEAP partners with some of the less well-known campuses. The funds for those already have been allocated and will not be affected. The other effect of President Drake's directive that has caused some concern was the instruction to defer maintenance. However, UCEAP's move to its new facility is a capitol project (not maintenance) and will not be affected.

The Executive Director said that enrollment and applications are a moving target due to the recent federal executive orders. UCEAP had been projecting to cross the 6,000 student headcount threshold, but that is now uncertain. Some students have been advised to come back to the United States prior to the implementation of federal travel bans. UCEAP has allocated some funds for students who may suddenly need to return to America.

Executive Director Nyitray stated that she had a request of the committee in response to activities related to encampments on the Berkeley campus. The students wanted some explanation of the program development process at Berkeley and at UCEAP. The Executive Director explained to the students that UCEAP works with institutions and cannot control what governments do. Furthermore, the programs in Israel have been cancelled and the agreements are expiring, with little or no hope of being renewed. UCEAP is concerned about the health, safety, and mental well-being of its students. If it thinks that some students might be marginalized at a certain location, they are counseled to consider other locations. However, some students decide to visit countries that may not be welcoming to – or accommodating of – students who are transgendered, LGBTQI, etc. Executive Director Nyitray asked UCIE for some guidance as to when to determine if a country is “too dangerous.” What is the responsibility of UCEAP? The committee will consider this question and respond at the May meeting

## **V. Associate Deans' Reports**

*Peter Graham, UCEAP Associate Dean*

*David Lopez-Carr, UCEAP Associate Dean*

Associate Dean Lopez-Carr reported that for the past few weeks, UCEAP has been working on its response to the 10-year program review. UCEAP has also been looking at opportunities for Russian language instruction. The Dean has been serving on an ad hoc committee working on Russian language instruction and has reached to instructors to gauge interest and thoughts. He observed that there is variable - but notable - demand across the campuses for Russian, and American Councils seems to be a preferred provider. Two of the four finalists for the Forum on Education Abroad's Award for Academic Achievement abroad are UCEAP students, and a UCEAP student was also given the award last year. The award recognizes thoughtful academic projects that students complete as part of their education abroad programs. Associate Dean Lopez-Carr also noted that UCEAP will be sharing its academic integration (AI) call for proposals in the weeks ahead. He encouraged committee members to spread the word about the grants and also to submit any names or departments that may be good candidates for an AI grant. The Associate Dean added that UCEAP has been selected as a winner of the 2025 CIEE Global Internship Conference Partner Award, which honors commitment to fostering and engaging in high quality internships, experiences, and skills-based experiential learning. AVP Nyitray was also recognized individually as a Visionary Leader in Education 2025 by *C/O Views* magazine. In addition, Associate Dean Graham received the UC Riverside 2025 Distinguished Campus Service Award.

Associate Dean Graham informed the committee that Summer Physics was for many years a very successful eight-week program. UCEAP is working to reinstate the program, and had providers from Sussex, Dublin, and Glasgow visit UC campuses last year and talk to physics department faculty. This summer, while the courses are in session, UCEAP is going to have UC representatives visit Sussex, Dublin, and Glasgow to see the programs, resources, and facilities and to talk to students. The Associate Dean added that this is a wonderful opportunity for students to complete physics for life science through a summer program, stay on track, graduate on time, and get the experience of being in another culture, which many STEM students are not able to do due to the intensity of the requirements at the upper-division level.

## **VI. Campus Reports**

Members reported on items related to international education from their divisions.

## **VII. Program Development**

*Sarah Abraham, UCEAP Director of Academic Development*

### **A. For First UCIE Review: New Program Proposal: University of Westminster**

Director Abraham explained that this is a new exchange with the University of Westminster London. Numbers post-Covid are coming back in the UK, and students are very interested in London. While UCEAP has a number of outstanding partners

there, it is not able to meet the total demand. The University of Westminster does not have a robust exchange program now. They will be working to accommodate 30 students with the goal of moving to 50. This would start in 2026-27. This university has by far the lowest GPA requirement, so it does increase access for students. The Director added that the University of Westminster was originally polytechnic campus and has a very non-traditional student body; almost half of the students are international. Students who apply for the program would pick a college, which would create a cohort feeling. There are three campuses, two in London, and one 30 minutes away. The University of Westminster's programming does not overlap strongly with the existing partners, so it will speak to a different cohort. Campus comments reflected concern regarding academic rigor and housing. Director Abraham noted that housing will be available in the fall and that spring housing will cost a bit more. they can essentially guarantee housing in the fall. Spring housing will cost a bit more. The Director said she would bring the proposal back to UCIE in May for a vote.

B. For Second UCIE Review and Requesting Approval: New Program Proposal: University of Technology Sydney

Director Abraham noted that this is the second and final meeting for this proposal. There had not been any questions at the last meeting. Chair Leslie asked if there would be any financial assistance with the visa, which is expensive. The Director said that the visa will be packaged in the student aid, but it will be an up-front cost before aid is disbursed. She added that UCEAP might need to look at shorter term experiences (less than 90 day) that will not need a visa.

## VIII. Program Reviews

A. 2023-24 10-Year Netherlands Review

*Michelle Leslie, Chair*

**Action Requested: Vote on Review Report in Executive Session**

Chair Leslie explained that the 2023-24 member who had participated in this review was not able to join UCIE today to give the report, and that she (Chair Leslie) would be giving it in her stead. She said that the review had an excellent structure and format and was clear and thorough. There are eight programs at three locations, and they have been operating for quite a while. All of them are English and the classes are mostly small, featuring considerable discussion and group work. The review committee chair visited last March and met with faculty, staff, and UC students at all three locations. The Chair noted that the Netherlands school system works very differently from the American system. The educational quality seems very high, and the schools are very competitive in Europe. Students are expected to be very well-prepared and participate. While most students seem to like this, it is not for everyone. It was suggested that student ambassadors could inform new cohorts about expectations. The business and economic program is not attracting the same numbers as similar programs in other countries. Reviewers noted considerable confusion about prerequisites and there was a suggestion to "package" it more effectively. Chair Leslie mentioned more campus-specific recommendations from the report. She observed

that student evaluations are no longer mandatory, so UCEAP gets less feedback from students than it did in the past.

Director Abraham agreed that it was a good report with valuable suggestions, but that UCEAP will have a follow up report in May that will address its concerns.

- B. Proposed 2025-26 UCIE Reviews of UCEAP Programs and Call for Review Committee Nominations

**Action Requested: *Nominate faculty members to participate in the 2025-26 review committees.***

Director Abraham said that this year had the call for the greatest number of faculty reviewers. Nominations are due by April 14, and a slate will be brought to the May UCIE meeting for a vote.

## **IX. UCEAP Information Items**

*Sarah Abraham, UCEAP Director of Academic Development*

- A. Program Cancellation Policy

Director Abraham informed the group that this policy originally was approved by UCIE in 2005. It was revised post-Covid, and went to OP in 2022. There is a section about cancellation due to academic concerns, which has not changed.

- B. Three-Year Chile Review Representative Request

Director Abraham explained that a UCIE representative is needed for the three-year Chile review.

## **X. Systemwide Information and Items Under Systemwide Review**

- A. Senate Chair Cheung's Remarks to the Board of Regents
- B. Proposed Presidential Policy on the Dual Use Research of Concern and Pathogens with Enhanced Pandemic Potential
- C. Proposed Revisions to APM-675, Veterinary Medicine Salary Administration
- D. Proposed Revisions to APM 036, General University Policy Regarding Academic Appointees/Employment
- E. Proposed revisions to Senate Bylaw 170 (University Committee on Educational Policy) and Rescission of Senate Bylaw 192 (University Committee on Preparatory Education)
- F. Proposed revisions to Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-63 (Risk Transfer and Insurance Requirements)

- G. Community Input on Academic Planning Council's Systemwide Academic Calendar Workgroup Draft Report

**XI. New Business**

There was no new business.

**XII. Executive Session**

- A. ***Action Taken: The University of Technology Sydney proposal was approved unanimously.***
- B. ***Action Taken: The 2023-24 10-Year Netherlands Review was approved unanimously.***
- C. ***Action Taken: Krislert Samphantharak was appointed as the UCIE representative for the 2024-25 Three-Year Chile Review.***

No minutes (apart from action items) are taken during Executive Session.

The committee adjourned at 1:45 p.m.