

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Notice of Meeting
Friday, May 15, 2020

I. Consent Calendar

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

Action Taken: *The agenda and minutes were approved with some changes to the minutes.*

II. Chair's Report – Chair Sathya Guruswamy

The Chair noted that the agenda was changed from its typical order to accommodate campus reports and concerns about international students earlier in the discussion.

III. Concerns for International Students in Light of COVID-19

Members remarked that campuses have a lot of international students who come from Asian countries which will likely be largely COVID-free in Fall 2020. Family concerns, travel restrictions, as well as ability to obtain visas in time for Fall 2020 may impact students from Asian countries being able to travel to the US. There is a high degree of uncertainty. Campuses are trying to make everything available asynchronously, and international students are being reassured as best as is possible that there will be remote access to classes. That said, office hours cannot be offered asynchronously. Some faculty have offered international student office hours. Another issue is how to administer exams remotely.

Many students depend on TAs to help pay their fees. It could be a great hardship if some of them cannot TA remotely. Students are feeling disconnected. They also feel that their classes are inconsistent and that creates a lot of anxiety. They are requesting more meeting rooms for discussion and for instruction.

Overall, faculty expressed overwhelming concern and ambiguity about how things would resolve in the fall. There was a feeling that there was little to be done at this point because so much was yet to be determined. The Chair suggested a summer meeting – July 17. More of the uncertainty will be addressed by that point and the committee can better determine what it can do to help students. There was considerable conversation about different plans the campuses are envisioning for reopening and how they were all very much in flux because of the uncertainty as to how the pandemic will play out in the months ahead and what will be feasible. Students are not happy about spending the same amount of money and not getting the same experience. There will be a financial impact on the University if students take quarters or semesters off. Members discussed possible strategies that had been put forward for reopening the campuses in the fall. It was agreed that hybrid instruction places a higher burden on faculty.

IV. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Academic Council Chair

Mary Gauvain, Academic Council Vice Chair

Budget for UC – The governor said that UC will be taking a 10 percent cut; the University had been expecting a flat budget. There has been an ad hoc budget group meeting with the CFOs that has been speculating on what the budgets would look like for three months, six months, and nine months. In July 2009, there was a formal

task force set up under the president and the Chair is hoping that a senate/administrative task force will happen soon. It was predicted that UC would have a \$2B loss because of COVID. Fortunately, the hospitals and medical centers have been told they can go back to elective surgery. This is important for the medical centers because they get paid by insurance.

COVID – Research is starting to ramp back up. UCSF and UCB are starting up soon and repopulating of the campuses is being discussed. There has been speculation about having one student per dorm room. But the alternative is that people come back to live in rented housing and that can be very crowded. Perhaps having three students in a dorm room is actually safer. What sort of testing will be needed when the campuses repopulate. The University is hoping by the middle of June there would be a better sense of what is happening and then the chancellors can decide what is best for their campuses. Ten thousand people are being trained to learn how to do contact tracing. How might we think about contact tracing on campuses?

Standardized Testing Task Force – The Assembly recommended that the University come back in five years and see if the STTF methods were still viable and still protect diversity. The president recommended is to make the test optional until fall 2022 and then in 2023/24 have admissions be test “blind” and not make it part of comprehensive review. Per her proposal, in Fall 2025 there should be a new test in place that tests students and their college preparedness. The Task Force had recommended that a new test would take nine years; the president has brought the time timing forward.

The new Merced chancellor will be announced Wednesday. Regent Chair Perez said on a public phone call on Monday that the Regents are down to about half a dozen candidates they are considering for UC President.

V. **Executive Session**

No minutes are taken during the executive session.

VI. **UCEAP Director’s Report** – *Director Vivian-Lee Nyitray*

All programs for summer are suspended. In fall, a very few will run and those will be under very special circumstances. UCEAP plans to notify the campuses about programs it is sure are not happening. Students who are already in-country somewhere have asked if they can stay there. The program is allowing students to stay at Fudan. There are about a half dozen students who are going to stay in New Zealand. Students who are in Taiwan might be allowed to stay. The Marine Biology program at Queensland is still supposed to run, but they are waiting for UCEAP to make the decision. Locations are being evaluated on a case-by-case basis. ACCENT is running their programs as hybrid starting online and then to less than 90 days in-country. All of the suspension decisions are predicated on knowing that students can still register on their home campuses. Finances – UCEAP is modeling a \$0 summer and \$0 fall and potentially a very light spring. The suspension of programs in summer and fall represents about 70 percent of UCEAP income. Although UCEAP is self-funded, it is following whatever guidelines UCSB is offering in terms of furloughs, hiring freezes, etc. The program has frozen hiring except for replacing program directors who retired. Spring is unpredictable. UCEAP is going to use the summer to review its programs.

UCEAP has wonderful immersion programs and partners who are world-renowned. But students

are often not aware of which programs are the best. The program is going to try to highlight tracks and get word out to department chairs and academic advisors. The advisors are so overworked that they are unable to do advising about international locations of value. UCEAP wants to strengthen its cooperation and communication. In its budget, it has had a cost-sharing measure with the campuses where UCEAP funds 0.5 FTE of a staff position; the Director said that she is committed to retaining these positions.

VII. UCEAP Associate Dean's Report – Associate Dean Hsiu-Zu Ho

The Associate Dean said that she mentioned last time that UCEAP is going to continue with its AI grants program and that she was going to confer with representatives on the campuses as far as what they would prefer as a proposal deadline. It was going to be May 1, but July 1 seems like a better date given the circumstances. As far as spring 2020, of the total spring participation of 1241, 954 students remain enrolled after suspension, 230 withdrew after suspension, and 57 withdrew prior to suspension. She did ask the academic specialists about the academic accommodations that were offered. In Europe, most of the classes and finals were offered online. In Singapore and Thailand classes and finals were offered online, and in Taiwan, they were still offered in person. In Africa and Middle East, all of the classes were offered online. In Oceania all of the programs and finals were offered online. In The Americas the classes and finals were offered online. Every UCEAP student received an academic disposition form for the suspended programs to let the program know if they are completing some or all of the courses through arrangements through their host university or if they were going to be dropping courses or withdrawing. There was flexibility in allowing pass/no pass on the UC campuses; UCEAP is allowing that as well almost up until the last minute.

UCEAP has been rigid in not allowing re-sit exams – but in the COVID 19 environment would look at the circumstances and allow it in some cases.

The Associate Dean presented an update to the reciprocity data as of April 29. Roughly 30% percent of the reciprocity students live at or near the host UC, and 58% are taking the courses while living in their home country.

The Associate Dean highlighted some of the challenges that students face: time away from studies while trying to return home or securing a living situation, lack of access to a stable internet and library/study areas, synchronous courses and testing after returning home (having to take courses or exams at 3 or 4 in the morning), increased family responsibilities, and courses changed by partners to p/np grading and they were counting on a letter grade to receive major credit.

On a positive note, at every location students have full access to local healthcare.

VIII. Program Development – New Program Proposals

A. Math in Rome

This is a direct collaboration with UCSD's School of Engineering. Linear algebra is something that all engineering students need to take and they can take it over the summer and get ahead of schedule – it is open to all UC campuses. It costs about \$10K and has a 2.5 GPA to maximize access.

B. Summer Internship in Prague

This is in partnership with CEA – UCEAP really liked the tremendous support that they give

students both before and during the program. UCEAP selected Prague because it accommodated the semester/quarter summer schedule.

C. Summer Research at Vilnius University

This is for life science and physics students; they would be working in a lab with grad students and faculty. It is off the beaten path and therefore more economical. These are research opportunities within the university. Director Nyitray toured the labs last year and everything was in English. The university and government has put tremendous resources into developing these labs. Members had considerable questions and discussion.

D. Field Studies in Volcanology

This is UCEAP's first field studies program in Europe in the summer. It takes advantage of the unique properties of Sicily and Mt. Aetna and the island chain there that is volcanic.

E. Social Entrepreneurship in Latin America

This is with an existing partner; UCEAP currently has a language program with them - they have an extensive business program. Members had questions about the program. Some felt that the cost was out of line compared to the economic state of Argentina at this time. It is uncertain how COVID will impact this program; there is mandatory quarantine and the country is completely closed. Is there going to be adequate safety for students? Members expressed concern because the program is in entrepreneurship, and this is a very depressed area of the world.

IX. Program Reviews

A. 2019-20 Israel Three-Year Review

Director Abraham noted that UCEAP could not share any student data because the program was too small and student anonymity would be jeopardized. There are no concerns about this program; it seems to be running really well, but it is not a very popular option. UCEAP would like to give it a little more time to go.

B. Proposed 2020-21 UCIE Program Review Committee Nominations

There will not be site visits for the program reviews because of the budget.

X. Information Items

A. Program Closures

Engineering for Sustainability, Munich University of Applied Sciences

Russian Area Studies Summer, CIEE St. Petersburg

When in Rome, UC Study Center

Contemporary Argentina, National University of Tres de Febrero

Spanish in Buenos Aires, Torcuato Di Tella University of Cádiz

MBA Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Summer + Fall International Christian University, Japan

Graduate Studies, International Relations, University of Tokyo

Summer in Singapore, National University of Singapore

Global Leadership Fellows Program (GLFP), Waseda University, Japan

B. New Summer Internship Program at Thammasat University

This is with a partner though their school of global studies which is entirely in English. This is mostly for social sciences and humanities majors and it will be more affordable because it

is not going through a third-party provider.

XI. Executive Session

A. Math in Rome

Action Taken: *Approved in Executive Session 12-0-0.*

B. Summer Internship in Prague

Action Taken: *Approved in Executive Session 12-0-0.*

C. Summer Research at Vilnius University

Action Taken: *This program was not approved in Executive Session 12-0-0. The committee proposed to send it back for updates for the summer meeting. The committee wants more information on the quality of the program. There is a difference between a research program and a cultural program and there needs to be clear what category this one falls into. One of the members just sat on the NTU review, and something like what was seen in that would be helpful.*

D. Field Studies in Volcanology

Action Taken: *Approved in Executive Session 12-0-0.*

E. Social Entrepreneurship in Latin America

Action Taken: *This program was not approved in Executive Session 12-0-0. The committee would like to wait and bring this back when things are clearer. Student safety is a concern as well as the relative expense of the program for such a depressed region.*

F. 2019-20 Israel Three-Year Review

Action Taken: *Approved in Executive Session 9-0-3.*

G. Proposed 2020-21 UCIE Program Review Committee Nominations

Action Taken: *Approved in Executive Session 12-0-0. The committee would like some background on the three year reviews next time and the major areas that they are concentrating on. There was a question raised as why there was a duplication of subject matter areas. It would be good to have more information about the programs at the time of the nominations.*

H. Possible Summer Meeting

Action Taken: *A summer meeting will be held July 17.*

XII. Campus Reports

These were covered under Item III.

XIII. New Business

There was no new business.

The committee adjourned at 4:18.