



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Notice of Meeting

Friday, May 16, 2025

I. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

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

II. Chair's Report

Chair Michelle Leslie

Chair Leslie reported that the search committee for the new executive director met in mid-April with three finalists who were then ranked and sent forward to the Provost's Office.

III. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

Steven W. Cheung, Academic Senate Chair

Ahmet Palazoglu, Academic Senate Vice Chair

The Senate Chair reported that the University has a new president, JB Milliken, who will start the role on August 1. The Chair remarked that this had been a very secretive search, and there was a lot of anxiety about the candidates. Council will meet with Mr. Milliken after he starts. The transition plan is for him to come to the committee orientation in the fall. Relatedly, the AAVP position has been filled, and the successful candidate will be starting in June. Professor Susannah Scott (UCSB) has been confirmed as incoming vice chair for the Senate. She was instrumental in creating the Report on the Future of Graduate Education. The Academic Council statement on the defense of the University was amended to include welfare of international students and scholars.

Council featured a discussion about the University's budget challenges. Chair Cheung said that the state legislature is quite sympathetic to UC. The University was slated for an eight percent cut, which has been reduced to three percent. There was also a restoration of some funding, the result of which was, essentially, a flat budget for UC for 2025-26. Council also took up the matter of clinicians and their access to shared governance. Chair Cheung created a proposal for a special committee on clinicians. Council had proposed the sunset of UCOPE based on the diminishing role that UCOPE has experienced over the past few years. However, Council members wanted to reinvigorate UCOPE to address core skills in English and math. UCOPE, BOARS, and UCEP will be considering options. The total remuneration study is moving forward and there are ongoing conversations.

The May Regents' meeting focused, in part, on faculty discipline. The Regents have been very hands-on with regard to expressive activities and charged UCOP and the Senate with looking at the entire P&T timeline, from preliminary investigation to discipline by the chancellor. A workgroup has been studying the issue and has adopted the timelines for SVSH, with the understanding that there are extensions for good cause. If the Regents approve then the sanctioning guidelines, the proposal will come to the Senate for an expedited 30-day review. Separately, the Regents have agreed to move the full funding date of UCRP out by two years.

Vice Chair Palazoglu discussed UCAD (the taskforce on adaptation to disruptions). He said that UCAD has been meeting with CFO Brostrom and others with the goal of making substantive recommendations. A report is expected by the end of June, but the workgroup will probably continue through the fall. He noted that the research enterprise has taken a significant hit in the loss of grant funding. ARO is helping with regard to promotions, but more actions will be necessary. One of the priorities of the new president is the systemwide articulation of course approvals; UCAD will be taking a hard look at how to facilitate that. [Academic Senate Task Force on UC Adaptation to Disruptions \(UCAD\)](#)

Members had questions and there was discussion.

IV. Associate Deans' Reports

Peter Graham, UCEAP Associate Dean

David Lopez-Carr, UCEAP Associate Dean

Associate Dean Lopez-Carr remarked that UCEAP will be organizing campus tours at the end of the month, and has asked global partners to join the tours. Part of the tours will include visiting with the study abroad partners at each of the campuses. He reported that the yearly call for up to 10 grants has been extended to June 4. He said that these are wonderful tools for incentivizing UCEAP integration, and that he would be happy to talk to anyone who is interested in applying. UCEAP just completed its follow-up on the Mexico review. The recommendations to integrate more modern approaches were received well. The Associate Dean reported that he had a rich and informative meeting with the instructors in Mexico City. UCEAP is brainstorming ideas with Alianza to find areas that are benefit to both organizations. With regard to Russian programming, Associate Dean Lopez-Carr stated that he met with American Councils, and they are investigating the safety level for the areas they have offered. Finally, he noted that he had attended his first Cal Abroad meeting - which includes CSU programs - and there was a lot of engagement. He noted that Executive Director Nyitray received many kudos.

Associate Dean Graham informed the group that the Summer Physics site visit will be soon. The visit will include talk about deliverables, and UCEAP will share that information with UCIE in the fall. He observed that when the number of UC students abroad increases, the number of first-generation students also increases. UCEAP has learned that it needs to spend more time talking to the campus committees to have more connections with faculty who are interested in study abroad. Both Associate Deans are hoping to schedule some meetings with campus committees in the fall. Only one in 10 college students studies abroad, although eight out of 10 are interested. Students have concerns about curricular integration and cost, but UCEAP has solutions for those. He

noted that if UCEAP can encourage and support the students, it is likely to have more participation.

There were questions for the Associate Deans and there was discussion.

V. Campus Reports

Members reported on matters related to international education from their campuses.

VI. Program Development

Sarah Abraham, UCEAP Director of Academic Development

A. For UCIE Review: University of Westminster

Action Requested: Vote on Program in Executive Session

Director Abraham noted that there was an outstanding question from last time about housing. She said that there should not be housing problems in the fall, but spring might be an issue. UCIE wanted to know when students will find out if they have housing; the Director said that it will be a month before the withdrawal date.

Westminster will work with them to get private accommodations. Chair Leslie asked about the ranking of the school, and Director Abraham replied that UCEAP has many partners with high GPAs, and this program would allow UC to offer an immersion program in London with a lower threshold. She added that the program is very student-focused, and that she believed it would be a refreshing experience for students. Other universities in London with higher thresholds had very limited course offerings. Furthermore, students are not interested in being outside of London.

Executive Director Nyitray added that many of those institutions have only 2-10 spots available, and that is not enough for UC. Director Abraham informed the group that the program will have an initial review after three years which will include academics.

VII. Program Reviews

A. One Year Follow-Up to the 2023-24 Mexico Review

Director Abraham informed the group that it had been a year since UCEAP submitted its Mexico report and it was approved. She observed that Associate Dean Lopez-Carr had already discussed some of the review. She added that the field research program is “amazing” gets very few participants. Some issues have been identified, and are being worked on, including the IRB process and changes to the Contemporary Mexico program. There was a question about expanding the community health program in Oaxaca; UCEAP is putting that on pause for now. UCEAP hopes the numbers will continue to grow, and it has just added a new partner. Some student perception issues need to be overcome, such as the feeling that Mexico is too close, not safe, or already a known quantity.

B. Proposed Committee Nominations for the 2025-26 UCIE Reviews of UCEAP Programs

Action Requested: Vote on Nominations in Executive Session

Director Abraham said that UCEAP would be working on these over the summer.

VIII. UCEAP Information Items

Sarah Abraham, UCEAP Director of Academic Development

A. New Summer Program at Oxford University

Director Abraham informed the group that UCEAP currently has two programs at Oxbridge (Oxford and Cambridge) that are extremely popular. Oxford filled up in 24 hours; Cambridge now has 83 students and is unlikely to accept more. Starting in summer of 2026, students will also have the option to enroll in a similar program at Lady Margaret Hall (LMH).

B. New Summer Research Program at the University of Alicante

Director Abraham noted that Spain is a very popular location. Alicante has labs and faculty where everything can be taught in English. There are two tracks based on student preparation. Students will live close to campus and meals (except weekends) are covered. The program is similar in cost to Madrid, which is also summer program.

C. Reopening Pompeu Fabra University

Director Abraham noted that UCEAP had to close this program in 2021-22 due to a number of challenges. Calendars were not aligning, and there was a lot of student frustration. However, the university has had a change in leadership, and UCEAP feels confident that it can offer the fall term. The spring still has a scheduling conflict. Their English language coursework also has increased.

D. Program Changes

Python and Data Science

Starting in summer 2026, this UC-construct program in Madrid will move from Accent International to Carlos III University and become Data Science in Madrid. The program has struggled with low enrollment and academic integration challenges since its 2018 launch.

New Summer Global Internship Locations

UCEAP is adding two new locations for its summer internship program with CIEE: Seoul and Sydney. Internship placement options are primarily in business management and administration, hospitality and tourism, and marketing. The Seoul location also offers placements in the government and public administration sector.

E. Program Closures

Sotheby's Institute of Art, London and Summer at Sotheby's Institute of Art

The program cancelled its offerings in spring 2025 and recently informed UCEAP that fall 2025 will also be canceled. There have been cancellations prior to those as well for low enrollment and administrative reasons.

Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean

UCEAP's partner on this program, Accent Global Learning, is closing this Italy/Turkey multi-site program effective fall 2025 due to low enrollment and logistical issues, including difficulties finding faculty with the necessary availability to teach intensively for six weeks.

University of Lyon

Enrollment has been dropping for many years as fewer UC students have the French language skills to be successful in an immersion program. Low enrollment, along with other obstacles like ongoing administrative difficulties and student frustrations, are unlikely to improve in the foreseeable future.

IX. UCEAP Director's Report

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

Executive Director Nyitray commented that external circumstances are impacting everything the University does, and the students are feeling it keenly. So far, Pell Grants are being protected, but that may change. Fullbrights have been closed. Students are very concerned about visa processing time. There are also concerns about travel to Mexico or Canada at break, and UCEAP has been advising students not to leave the country. Currently, UCEAP has about 200 non-resident students in California, they are concerned about leaving the country. Furthermore, UCEAP can no longer serve DACA students. Compounding these concerns are economic worries. With all of the uncertainty about federal funding, UCEAP is seeing a delay in applications moving forward. Students are holding off until they have some greater certainty. Next year, UCEAP is looking at being able to send out at least 6,000 students, which is a new milestone for the program and is very exciting. Student interest has not diminished. Some of the campuses were very excited to report that their applications have increased and others are holding stable. She said that these numbers are testament to the work that the Associate Deans and Director have been doing with academic integration (AI). UCEAP has increased the AI grant pool from \$30k to \$50K; this will facilitate faculty and staff working together.

The Executive Director said that UCEAP is planning on moving into its new property. The architects are working to protect the delicate coastal ecosystem. In the next six weeks UCEAP will get on paper the MOU regarding the financing of the property. The program already has over \$900K to get the work started and is financing the rest with the UCSB campus.

Starting Tuesday, she and Dean Lopez-Carr are leading bus tours to the campuses with international partners. The point of the bus tours is to introduce some of the campuses that have less name recognition outside the US and highlight their value.

Executive Director Nyitray reminded members that at the last meeting, she had come off a call with the encampment students at UCB and agreed to have a follow up meeting; however, the students did not respond. Director Abraham made a flowchart showing that student input is welcome and sought.

In response to an earlier question about fees, Executive Director Nyitray explained that UCEAP has had a \$1K participation fee for the past eight years. That fee is covered by financial aid. Other specific fees with some programs come from the program not being covered by the tuition and fees. UCEAP has looked at the cost of each program, what is the break-even point, and is a fee even necessary. Over the past three years, many of those fees have either come down or been eliminated entirely. In addition, UCEAP pays into return-to-aid through tuition and campus fees.

Finally, The Executive Director remarked that she is retiring in 45 days. She added that she already had stayed 18 months longer than she intended. She said she is very passionate about education abroad, and is glad UC makes these opportunities available. Not every student can travel abroad, so it is valuable to have reciprocity students in their classrooms and in their dorms. A successor has not yet been named, but three finalists were sent forward and the Provost has concluded her interviews. In addition, she has put forward a half-dozen positions as exceptions to the hiring freeze; they have all been approved.

X. Systemwide Information and Items Under Systemwide Review

- A. Senate Chair Cheung's Remarks to the Board of Regents
- B. Systemwide Review of Proposed New Presidential Policy on High-Containment Research
- C. Proposed Revisions to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) Section 500, Recruitment
- D. Proposed Revisions to APM 360 (Appointment and Promotion, Librarian Series)

XI. New Business

There was no new business.

XII. Consultation with Graduate, Undergraduate, and Equity Affairs (GUEA)

Cynthia Dávalos, Associate Vice President, GUEA

AVP Dávalos introduced herself and explained that she works on issues for undocumented students and international students and scholars. She had these responses to the following questions:

1. *What is the advice for international students who are wanting to travel outside of the US?*
AVP Dávalos: The ISS offices have been emailing and communicating through workshops and town halls on the issues that are going on. They have been advising students to be cautious with their travel. UCOP is anticipating travel restrictions. It is the students' individual choice to travel or not, and to make sure all their documentation is up-to-date.
2. *What is the advice for international students who need to travel outside of the US to renew their visa?*

AVP Dávalos: UC did provide some legal resources to students who have a revoked visa. That is accessed through ISS, which directs them to this resource at no cost. Students should have legal advice before they go out of the country. Every case is unique.

3. *What supports are available (legal and/or financial) for students whose visas are revoked?*

AVP Dávalos: UC is providing no-cost legal advisement. Students can get more information at the campus ISS office.

4. *Have there been any changes in the numbers of international students applying to the UCs?*

AVP Dávalos: That is unknown at this time. Undergraduate and transfer students have until June 1; graduate students are currently making those decisions. More will be known after the census. Loss of international students would also have an economic impact, not just to the university but regions where the campuses are located.

5. *What should a student at a point-of-entry do if they are denied entry into the US?*

AVP Dávalos: Students need to contact their lawyer and inform their campus ISS office. The ISS offices are connecting with the UC Immigrant Legal Services Center, which was originally set up for DACA, but the issues are similar. This has happened in the past – it is not uncommon for a student or scholar to be denied entrance> Sometimes they call to verify enrollment. The ISS offices are communicating with students about this.

6. *What might be done or organized, institutionally, to support non-isolation of international students (preventatively/non-reactively, actively)?*

AVP Dávalos: Students need education, awareness, and need to know who to call. Students need to be aware that things are in flux, and they need to be very cautious about their behavior and actions within the country given the extra scrutiny of non-citizen immigrants.

Members had additional questions for the Associate Vice President, and there was discussion.

XIII. Executive Session

A. Action Taken: The proposal was approved 6-0-1.

B. Action Taken: The nominations were approved 7-0-0.

The committee adjourned at 2:22 p.m.