

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

**Minutes of Meeting**

Friday, May 17, 2024

**I. Approval of the Agenda and Minutes**

**Action Requested: *The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed.***

**II. Chair's Report**

Chair Leslie reported that she had attended a summit on Summer Physics hosted at UCSB. She explained that the program had once been very popular. The initial partners were in Sussex, Dublin and Glasgow. Despite the popularity of the program, the committee who reviewed it felt that students could not complete a full year of physics in three quarters, so the program was cut back to two quarters. This change decimated program enrollment. The purpose of the summit was to bring the partners together with UC to determine how to breathe life back into the program. Chair Leslie reported that the meetings were very productive and informative and she is very hopeful for the future of Summer Physics. The Chair also reported that she met with Executive Director Nyitray and Director Abraham during that visit and they discussed the syllabus changes that are coming out for the UC construct programs and the need for academic oversight of them. She suggested that the University might want to establish on-call review committees composed of faculty with expertise to handle this undertaking. The reviews then could come to UCIE as information items.

**III. Campus Reports**

Members reported on items related to international education on their campuses.

**IV. UCEAP Director's Report**

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

The Executive Director informed the committee that UC Legal reported that both UCR and UCB had reached agreements with the encampment leaders. However at UCR, the agreement includes a clause noting that UCR will modify its approval process for all study abroad programs "to ensure compliance with UC's Anti-Discrimination Policies." The discrimination concern is whether all students are able to participate equally in UCEAP and campus study abroad programs. Reference was made to a now-outdated Department of State website that specified that students of "Palestinian, Arab, or Muslim" nationality might be detained or harassed at control points. UCEAP looked into its database and determined that (to-date) it has never had a student who was detained or harassed. Neither UCEAP nor its Israeli higher educational partners discriminate in the acceptance of UC students; the potential problem lies with Israeli border security and immigration services. The Executive Director noted that all UCEAP programs in Israel have been cancelled through the 2024-25 academic year; moreover, as cancellations were made for reasons of safety and security, restarting these programs will not be

automatic but will require a thorough security review and approval by the UC Office of the President.

Another item of note was that UCEAP's programs in Israel were suspended two months ago based on health and safety concerns. Three students were there and were safely evacuated or left of their own accord. Programming cannot be resumed in Israel without involvement by UCOP and a full safety and security assessment which would cost between \$20-30K. Executive Director Nyitray pointed out that the current agreements expire in 2026, so it is premature to make a decision at this time.

Returning to the topic of the encampments, the Executive Director discussed the protests at the campus EAP offices and the systemwide office. UCEAP has issued a directive to all the staff who are working at the office to be alert to their surroundings. In response to questions, she mentioned programs that have been held (or are currently held) in areas of the world that are problematic. Considerable discussion ensued.

Executive Director Nyitray reported that UCEAP sent out a little more than 5,300 students this year and is projecting to exceed 6,000 for the first time next year. She said that her office is looking forward to working with campuses to manage this number of students. She shared that UCEAP is finishing this year in the black, and that the office move to the UCSB campus has been approved by the campus capital planning committee. Separately, she raised the topic of students who should not be participating in education abroad due to physical or mental health concerns. Twice UCEAP has had students with severe mental health problems whose condition was known the campuses. She emphasized that this issue dangerous for those students, as well as other students, and that it also requires tremendous resources and time. She said that this might be a topic UCIE will need to address in the future.

Director Abraham discussed the launching of the Global Start program. She said that the program had 30 applications, mostly from UCLA students. These students will start with some orientation on-campus in the summer and then will leave for Sicily in the fall. UCEAP is very excited to see this program get off to such an auspicious start.

Finally, Executive Director Nyitray told the committee that in May of 2025, UCEAP will be running a bus tour in advance of the enormous meeting for international educators that will be held in San Diego. All of the campuses except UCSD have agreed to participate, and will be hosting groups of international educators at their campuses. One goal is to enable the international partner staff to see the other campuses (besides UCLA and UCB) and highlight some majors. She said she will discuss the project further when the time draws closer.

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

*Peter Graham, UCEAP Associate Dean*

*David Lopez-Carr, UCEAP Associate Dean*

Associate Dean Graham recounted the Chair's update regarding the Summer Physics program. He added that the downturn in program enrollment was exacerbated by COVID and the inability of UCEAP to host a summit to discuss the topic. However, it was

recently able to hold a summit that was attended by representatives from the partner institutions. He noted that the partner institutions are able to offer more support and contact time for students during the summer than is possible at UC. He said that the next step is for partners in physics to travel abroad this summer - while those programs are in session - so that they will be able to interact with students and instructors, and ask more concrete questions.

## VI. Program Development

### A. Business and Economics in Barcelona

**Action Requested: Vote on Program in Executive Session**

Director Abraham reminded the committee that this is the second time the committee had seen the program. The committee wanted information about instructors, and Exspanish has supplied the names of two faculty who are interested in teaching in this program. Both have PhDs and both have experience teaching international students.

### B. Mahidol University International College

**Action Requested: Vote on Program in Executive Session**

The Director remarked that there had been a lot of questions about which terms would be offered and she clarified that UCEAP would be offering every trimester that Mahidol offers and each one is a semester in terms of classes. She added that this is similar to UK semesters, so it is not unprecedented.

## VII. Program Review

### A. 2023-24 10-Year Czech Republic Review

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

Chair Leslie reported UC students in this program take courses with students from other institutions. The program has had reduced enrollment post-pandemic, particularly from UC students. She said that the class sizes are kept fairly small and the program hosts many field trips. It is a construct program, so it hires adjunct instructors. Overall, the review committee chair who went to Prague was very impressed, particularly with the film school. However, one thing that came up in the student reviews is that they are not finding the classes as challenging as UC courses. This results in some students taking a few more classes than they would take at home. One suggestion was to highlight the options at the film school; the students who have taken those courses have been very, very pleased. This might provide an opportunity for advertising. Potential recruitment issues are the reduction of word-of-mouth advertising because of the pandemic and the program cost – it is one of the more expensive programs in Europe. Some of this is a consequence of CIE no longer giving UC a large discount. UCEAP might consider speaking to them about that in light of CIE trying to establish new partnerships in Prague. Chair Leslie noted that the summer internship program seems to be going very well. It has good structure, and the students meet in a small group every week to discuss what they are getting out of

their internships. The internships are very well monitored by the CIE staff and most of the students do get their first or second choice. One thing that came up was that a few students did not like the remote work component. That said, the program seems very strong and well-liked by the students.

- B. Proposed Committee Nominations for the 2024-25 UCIE Reviews of UCEAP Programs

**Action Requested: Vote on Nominations in Executive Session**

Director Abraham informed the group that she is still in need of some names to fill the review committee rosters.

## VIII. Information Items

- A. New Program at Tohoku University

The Director explained that this is a new summer program and is very exciting. STEM research opportunities in the summer are very popular and very hard to develop. She expects this program to fill very quickly, and will start in summer 2025. Executive Director Nyitray added that this program is funded in part by a very large grant from the Japanese government.

- B. New Program at the University of Waikato

Director Abraham noted that this program will be happening at Waikato's brand new coastal field station. While it will take place during the North American summer, it will be winter and cold in New Zealand. This is another summer STEM opportunity. The Executive Director added that visited the site and it very is impressive, particularly in terms of local engagement and sensitivities.

- C. Reopening Queen Mary University of London Summer Program

The Director remarked that before the pandemic, no one was interested in this program, and it was closed. Post pandemic, the interest in summer London is very high and the program has also added a few courses that might spur more student interest.

- D. Program Changes to UC Construct Programs

Director Abraham explained that these changes were being brought to UCIE as part of the committee's oversight role and because there are no partner universities involved. She elaborated that any syllabi changes will be vetted and then brought to UCIE in the fall.

#### E. Program Closures

The Director explained that low interest and lack of enrollment resulted in the closure of these programs.

### IX. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership

*James Steintrager, Academic Senate Chair*

*Steven Cheung, Academic Senate Vice Chair*

Academic Senate Chair Steintrager reported that the most recent Regents' meeting was held at UCM, and that a lot of discussion took place in closed session. The Regents are quite concerned about protests and encampments and the variety of responses that have been seen across the 10 campuses. The Board would like a more consistently coordinated response and would like to better control what gets negotiated. All of the chancellors had to give a report about what was happening on their campuses. There has been some fallout for administrators in terms of votes of no confidence or censure. Chancellor Block (UCLA) will be in Washington, DC next week to testify about responses to antisemitism on UC campuses.

The Senate Chair informed the group that there has been a strike authorization and there will be several stand-up strikes at Santa Cruz on Monday. It is unclear how disruptive this action will be. UC has now filed its own unfair labor practice regarding the legality of the strike. The President has published FAQs on the strike on a website which is quite a victory; there is considerable risk-aversion at OP about direct communication and the administration is very reluctant to have anything on a website. The Senate has put out some targeted guidance for faculty.

Chair Steintrager observed that there has been a significant disruption of shared governance, particularly with regard to remote instruction. Relatedly, the Regents' item on public and discretionary statements has been postponed due to a lack of time at the meeting; it will be revisited in July. The meeting time was largely consumed by the announcement of the new Board Chair (Janet Reilly) and Vice Chair (Maria Anguiano). The Senate Chair noted that these individuals seem relatively friendly to working in collaboration with the Senate.

Senate Vice Chair Cheung remarked that the state budget is in dire straits. That notwithstanding, the governor continues to assert that his office will honor the compact and that the University will be made whole. Conversely, UC's investments have done very well, which takes pressure off the funding of UCRP and allows for some funds to be used to mitigate the budgetary shortfall.

### X. New Business

There was no new business.

XI. Executive Session

- A. **Action Taken: The Business and Economics in Barcelona proposal was approved 10-0-0.**
- B. **Action Taken: The Mahidol University International College proposal was approved 10-0-0.**
- C. **Action Taken: The 2023-24 10-Year Czech Republic Review was approved 9-0-1.**
- D. **Action Taken: The Nominations for the 2024-25 UCIE Reviews of UCEAP programs were approved 10-0-0.**

The Chair thanked members for their service and wished them a pleasant summer.

The committee adjourned at 1:30 p.m.