

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

### Minutes of Meeting

Friday, October 20, 2023

#### I. **Approval of the Agenda**

**Action Taken: The agenda was approved as noticed, 11-0-0.**

#### II. **Welcome and Chair's Report**

Chair Michelle Leslie welcomed the group and expressed her appreciation for members' service. She mentioned that she had recently attended a UCEAP advisory board meeting. Most of the discussion was about recovering from the pandemic; program numbers are improving, and UCEAP believes that it will get to 6,000 students in the next year or two. One area that has not come back as strongly is summer programming, which was formerly very popular. There has been a significant change to the summer physics programs offered by UCEAP. In response to a review, they were scaled back from three quarters to two quarters. This resulted in a drop in enrollment. There is a question of reinstating the three-quarter option; for many students, the summer physics programs were the only opportunity to study abroad.

Vice Chair Schultens remarked that the advisory board had discussed how popular locations change over time and that there could be a role for UCIE to identify programs that might be of interest to students.

Associate Dean Graham added that there was considerable discussion about the budget at the meeting. The budget predictions are strong, and UCEAP will not need to rely on reserve money. He said that the .5 FTE campus positions that are funded by UCEAP likely will be increasing to 1.0.

#### III. **Campus Reports**

UCB – The campus does not have an international education office, but has an undergraduate study committee that met last month. The member reported that he is interested finding ways to help Berkeley students engage with international education.

UCD – The campus had its first meeting where it discussed the freshman study abroad program. The pilot program should be starting soon.

UCI – The member introduced himself.

UCLA – The campus is preparing for the 2028 Olympics; it would like to give the message of UCLA being a global university. Last year, the campus-based program mainly sent students to European destinations, but this year it hopes to send students to Latin American and Asian countries as well.

UCM – The member introduced himself.

UCR - In 2021-22, the campus had 1,961 international students; in 2023-24 it has 2,822. The number of international scholars has gone down from 2021-22 (343). Now the campus has 303 international scholars. The FLEAP (faculty-led education abroad program) has been very successful with first-generation and low-income students.

UCSD – The campus is going to have a meeting later this quarter. Programs were reviewed right before the summer break last year and the campus approved two proposals. It will be reviewing two more this quarter, one in Korea and one in Japan.

UCSF – The member introduced himself.

UCSB – The campus has a new director for its EAP program. There is significant activity with the Global Engagement Program, and the campus is continuing to raise money for scholars at risk. Education abroad numbers are strong, and the campus is working to develop a survey to see how international students are doing in the wake of the pandemic.

UCSC – The campus has experienced a worrisome decline in the number of international undergraduate students coming to Santa Cruz (as well as other UC campuses). It is possible that this is a result of the elimination of the SAT for admissions. International students are disadvantaged because they do not have the grade inflation (and subsequent high GPAs) that domestic students have.

#### **IV. Consultation with the Academic Senate Leadership**

*James Steintrager, Academic Senate Chair*

The Senate Chair requested that the committee ask Executive Director Nyitray what UCEAP is doing in terms of sustainability and climate with regard to the carbon footprint of international travel.

Chair Steintrager told the group that the Regents have been pushing hard for fully online undergraduate degrees. Last year, the Senate passed a modification to SR 630 to have an on-campus residency requirement of two semesters/three quarters. Passage of that regulation barred fully online undergraduate degrees and caused consternation in some areas. The Chair explained that two campuses (UCSC and UCI) had submitted proposals for fully online undergraduate degrees. The systemwide senate reviewed both of these programs, and the Santa Cruz proposal was eventually approved in a modified form as a major; the Irvine proposal was not approved. There is a sense at OP is that the regulation is too restrictive on the campuses. Some Regents that would like to see that regulation removed, and the Senate is considering the possibility of having variances at some of the campuses. He reminded the committee that the Senate has authority over courses and curricula, but it is designated from the Regents. The Regents have been cautioned strongly against taking control away from the Senate.

The APC has a couple of ongoing workgroups. One is working on the future of UC doctoral programs (non-professional programs). This relates in part to the strike and how that it changed how the University can approach graduate studies while ensuring a distinction between paid employment and educational endeavors. Increasingly, this group is looking at funding models: how can UC incorporate new costs and still admit graduate students. That workgroup did a preliminary report at the Provost's congress at UCLA. The second APC workgroup is on faculty workload balance post-pandemic. How do faculty attend to the missions of teaching, research, and service? Chair Steintrager observed that the research component was curtailed by the pandemic, but seems to be coming back strongly. He said that there is a danger that the service component is going to get lost or otherwise diminished.

The Chair informed the committee that the Provost intends to hold two more congresses. The next is on AI in February and the final one will be on online education in June. He said that the Senate likely will be launching its own investigation into AI.

Members had questions for the Senate Chair and there was discussion.

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

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

Executive Director Nyitray provided an overview of UCEAP for new members. She announced that UCEAP finished the last academic year with strong participation. Over 4000 students were outbound through the program last year, which was slightly more than had been anticipated. The program expects approximately 5500 outbound students for 2023-24, which will bring it close to pre-pandemic numbers.

The Executive Director explained that the First-Year Fall Program was developed at the request of Davis and Irvine; the program was then joined by UCLA and UCSD (although they will not be participating in the initial cohort). One session will be held in Spain and one in Italy. Executive Director Nyitray was pleased to share that reports regarding UC students abroad are positive. They are considered hard-working, polite, and unproblematic. That said, it is understood that UC students are suffering with general anxiety problems and that they are reluctant to ask for help.

With regard to the current war in the Middle East, the Executive Director reported that a few UCEAP students had left Israel voluntarily. A few students remain in Jordan, and UCEAP is communicating with the campus offices to monitor for any changes in the area. As part of maintaining student security, UCEAP never discusses the exact number of students it has abroad or their exact locations. Executive Director Nyitray said that her office is expecting demonstrations requesting that UCEAP close its programs in Israel at the study abroad fairs. Currently, UCEAP has programs in China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Russia, China, and Egypt. It has had to close programs in the past for safety and security reasons, not because of ideological differences.

In response to the question posed by the Academic Senate Chair, the Executive Director talked about UCEAP's relationship with sustainability and climate change. Two years ago, UCEAP started a Going Green campaign tried to adhere to all of the

University's standards in terms of sustainability and reuse. UCEAP has also been asking donors to consider funding activities that have a sustainability focus. The program has also been encouraging students to remain in their local region on the weekends and not "jet off" to other cities. It also suggests that students get involved in local volunteer efforts related to sustainability.

Members had questions for the Executive Director and there was discussion.

## VI. UCEAP Associate Deans' Reports

*Peter Graham, UCEAP Associate Dean*

*David Lopez-Carr, UCEAP Associate Dean*

Associate Dean Graham provided a few updates. He said that he had been working with the study center in Korea and had the opportunity to interact with it over the summer. He taught their international summer school with many faculty from around the world, including four from UC. He also worked with the study center in Glasgow, where he did research over the summer. Associate Dean Lopez-Carr will be visiting the study centers in Spain, Italy, and France in the winter and spring.

The Associate Dean remarked that there will be some targeted Academic Integration efforts taking place this year. These efforts are related to the often-asked question regarding students getting major credit (or GE credit) for their UCEAP courses.

Finally, Associate Dean Graham informed the group that the Associate Deans have academic authority over UCEAP grades; all the grades that come through the programs are reviewed and signed off by the Associate Deans and then sent to the campuses. This process helps identify areas where there might be grade inflation. The office is starting to collect information on programs where it feels that the grades might be too high.

Associate Dean Lopez-Carr introduced himself and shared some of his own experience with traveling and living abroad.

Members had some questions for the Associate Deans.

## VII. Program Development

### A. For First UCIE Review: New Program Proposal

- Tec de Monterrey

Director of Academic Development Abraham gave an overview of the new program proposal process. She explained that this is an exchange program with the Mexico City campus of the Tec de Monterrey. UCEAP had another program with them formerly that closed in the early 2000s because of the lack of student interest. Since then, the program has undertaken some significant updates. She remarked that Mexico City is the best fit for UC students; the other locations were either off-limits per the State Department or were less desirable. Students can take courses in English or Spanish. A lot of coursework is in business and economics, and there is

an intensive language program over the summer that can shorten the time abroad and lessen the cost. UCEAP also is looking at internship programs.

Members had questions for the Director and there was discussion.

## VIII. Program Reviews

### A. 2022-23 10-Year Italy Review – Michelle Leslie

Professor Leslie discussed the review. She remarked that she felt the review report “missed the mark” in terms of the questions the review team was asked. She said that the conversations that team members had with the program were universally positive. The overall sense is that the programs are very strong, however there were some questions about staffing, infrastructure, and whether or not the program was too challenging for UC students.

The Executive Director said that the staffing issue hopefully will be resolved in the near future. She observed that when the Italian prerequisites were lifted, the program numbers did jump up.

### B. 2022-23 10-Year UK Review

Professor Shindel said that he felt the review report did not address the questions that were asked. He observed that there was a tremendous amount of data inherent in the review; 10 institutions were involved, and all of them were UC-caliber institutions. One point that was raised was the nature of academic progress and how it is different from how things are handled at UC. Some students were quite challenged. There were questions regarding the transfer of credits and whether they would count as major requirements or general education requirements. He remarked that students who go to the UK think that they will not have any problems because they speak the countries’ language. However, there are cultural and academic differences that many students do not expect.

Professor Shindel asked if maybe the UK review should be broken into different pieces because of the size and scope of the programs. The Executive Director agreed that was a good idea and said they will do that going forward.

### C. 2022-23 10-Year Costa Rica Review

Professor Graninger said that the program in Tropical Biology and Conservation has a history of being highly successful. It runs in the fall and winter and students take a fixed program of courses. There is a Spanish language component, but the focus of the program is in fieldwork and visits to sites and parks. The program seems to be offering a high-quality experience for students, but perhaps could reach a broader range of students. The program seems to be “maxed out” in terms of numbers. In addition, there are some prerequisites for application that seem to catch quarter and semester students in different places. There is a sense that more

flexibility on the part of UCEAP staff and how they evaluate these prerequisites could be helpful.

D. One-Year Follow-Up Report for the 2020-21 10-Year Ireland Review

Director Abraham told the committee that UCEAP has a new Associate Program Director for Ireland, and she already has put a lot of the review recommendations into place or is working on them. There were some staffing issues that have been resolved. The program is trying a new tack in terms of communicating with students by breaking information into smaller chunks and distributing it through three different webinars. The program is also working with a provider that helps students match with a counselor.

E. One-Year Follow-Up Report for the 2020-21 10-Year Korea Review

Director Abraham said that there has been a lot of discussion about students who come in with no Korean but want some “survival” Korean to get by. The program is doing a pilot program where it is providing survival Korean coursework and will evaluate if it will continue this effort going forward. Initial reports indicate that students are very engaged.

**IX. Information Item**

A. Program Closures

1. HKUST Summer

Quarter campus students are no longer able to participate with this program, and there is some lack of fit with course offerings. UCEAP has closed this program but its relationship with the institution is still strong.

2. University of Kent

This closure is a result of findings in the 10-Year UK Review. There was very little student interest in this program, even prior to the pandemic.

3. Immigration and Identity: Asia in South America

This was a UC construct program that just did not attract student interest. It only ran once and only five students participated. Since Covid, UCEAP has tried to run it twice, and both times there were not the requisite enrollment.

**X. Items Under Systemwide Review**

A. Proposed Revisions to Academic Senate Bylaw 55 (Departmental Voting Rights)

B. Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Policy on Vaccination Programs

C. Proposed Academic Personnel Manual (APM) Section 672, Negotiated Salary Program

Members declined to opine on these issues.

**XI. Executive Session**

- A. **Action Requested: *Vote on the 2022-23 10-Year Italy Review – 10-0-1***
- B. **Action Requested: *Vote on the 2022-23 10-Year UK Review – 10-0-1***
- C. **Action Requested: *Vote on the 2022-23 10-Year Costa Rica Review 11-0-0***
- D. **Action Requested: *Appoint UCIE Representatives for the AY 2023-24 Program Reviews***
  - 1. Mexico – Marco Giovannini
  - 2. Czech Republic – Michelle Leslie
  - 3. Netherlands – Alenda Chang
  - 4. Japan – Heather Hether

**XII. New Business**

Professor Hether asked if international students can get credit for Pearson international exams.

Professor Eaton asked about the intersection between UCEAP programs and faculty-led programs on the campuses.

The committee adjourned at 2:09 p.m.