

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

### Minutes of Meeting

Friday, December 15, 2023

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

**Action Taken: The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed 7-0-0.**

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

*Chair Michelle Leslie*

The Chair reported that she had attended the Assembly meeting, but there was nothing that was of interest regarding international education. She added that Senate Chair Steintrager had asked her to inquire into sustainability efforts made by UCEAP. Executive Director Nyitray had good feedback for her. She also asked about international undergraduate enrollment in light of no longer having the SAT. Chair Leslie mentioned that she did not see campus and UCEAP programs as being in conflict, but as being complementary. The campus-based programs really help the first-generation students, and UCEAP offers more broad offerings. She said she would ask Executive Director Nyitray for her thoughts on the topic.

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

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

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

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

The Executive Director reported that enrollment is nearing pre-pandemic levels; she will have solid figures at the next meeting. At that time, she will also have some data on the number of extensions and the number of applications for next year. She reported that she had been in a meeting where some alarm was expressed about a drop in the number of applications, but she explained that this was a result of switching to direct application by students to many UCEAP programs. Students are getting more targeted advising now, so they are not submitting as many applications; also, applications skyrocket after the winter closure. Executive Director Nyitray stated that UCEAP's reorganization is continuing, bringing on many new people and ideas. This will continue until February/March. The faculty directors' group is very active and would like to meet with the campus committees.

UCEAP cannot manage faculty-led programs because the process for building these programs is lengthy. She said that she believes those programs are better organized at the campus level. UCEAP did run a few of them, but most of the

students came from a campus where a faculty member taught; it was challenging to have students from other campuses. However, her office can help campuses vet external providers and suggest providers that have a solid track record in terms of health and safety. The Executive Director said that she did not see UCEAP and campus programs as being in competition, and is happy to help with campus programs.

The campus faculty directors' group is very engaged. There is a new systemwide group, International Risk Council, and she met with the SIOs recently to talk about it. This group meets periodically to discuss best practices and share ideas. She added that campuses that have an International Risk Manager should consider inviting them to their CIE meetings. Executive Director Nyitray said that she is forming a new informal committee of former study center directors and faculty directors to engage in helping her develop a plan for a proposal for a scholar-in-residence program to offer faculty opportunities with UCEAP. She said that her office has been discussing discontinuing the UC Study Abroad Conference. It is a tremendous workload and very expensive, and does not seem to be as useful as it once might have been. Instead, her office may be offering a regular series of workshops.

For Giving Tuesday, UCEAP was able to fund 100 museum passes for students. The Executive Director noted that this is both an equity issue and is also a sustainability initiative because students can stay in situ and visit local museums. UCEAP has also taken over the stewardship of two campus-based scholarship funds.

Finally, Executive Director Nyitray mentioned that she will be visiting the University of Stirling in Scotland. This program may be coming to UCIE later this year.

## V. UCEAP Associate Dean's Report

*David Lopez-Carr, UCEAP Associate Dean*

Associate Dean Lopez-Carr explained that his office is working on several issues, including one on petitions (to what extent they are unique, and to what extent do they form a pattern). They are also looking at how Berkeley handles students who are parents. His office has been collaborating on the new proposals with Barcelona and Alicante and he hopes to visit both institutions in late winter or early spring. The Associate Dean said that his office has been looking to identify grade inflation, which is a problem globally. Another issue his office is working on is the challenge of creating a standardized and sustainable plan for Spanish certification to allow students to take courses in Spanish at host universities. His office has been meeting with Life and Physical Sciences deans and associate deans to address study abroad challenges for STEM students. Finally, his office is collaborating on a handful of initiatives with the AI Specialist to update the integration grants and is having meetings to investigate how UCEAP can improve outreach to campus faculty.

Members had questions for the Associate Dean, and there was discussion.

**VI. Overview of UCEAP Research Tools**  
*Yeana Lam, Senior Research Analyst*

Senior Research Analyst shared Data showed a presentation on resources that are available on enrollment, costs/value of study abroad, scholarships and awards, curriculum integration and program reviews.

**VII. Program Development**

**A. For UCIE Review**

1. Tec de Monterrey in Mexico City

Director Abraham reminded the committee that UCEAP had brought this proposal before the group in October. At that time, members had a question about when students find out if their language was adequate; that evaluation comes too late to change their minds. It was determined that issue does not impact a lot of students. Tec de Monterrey will open this up for people who do not have a connection to Mexico or do not have Spanish language.

Members had question and there was discussion.

**B. For First UCIE Review**  
University of Alicante

Director Abraham explained that this was an exchange with the University of Alicante in Spain. The numbers in Spain have exploded since UCEAP dropped the language requirement, and the capacity has not kept pace with demand, particularly in Barcelona. Alicante currently has one of the largest English-language speaking catalogs in Spain. They offer Spanish language at every level. It also has internships. Perhaps the largest advantage is housing and cost. Students can live on campus, and the university will help them with their housing, including some meal plans.

Members had some questions.

**VIII. Information Item**

**A. Program Closure**

1. Crossroads of Culture in the Mediterranean

This program ran once, and the UC professor has told UCEAP that he can no longer teach the course. This was UCEAP's attempt to do a faculty-led program; they are a lot of work logistically. UCEAP feels that faculty-led programs are best done on the campuses.

**B. Program Changes****1. Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean**

This program originally was supposed to encompass three different locations: Italy, Spain, and Turkey, but Turkey was removed almost immediately with a second Italian program put in its place. The problem with this program has been in obtaining visas in Spain. In the interim, Turkey once again became accessible, so now Barcelona is being swapped for Istanbul. This is going to require a change to the syllabi.

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

*James Steintrager, Academic Senate Chair*

*Steven Cheung, Academic Senate Vice Chair*

Senate Chair Steintrager remarked that at the last Regents' meeting featured considerable public comment on the situation in the Middle East and on related campus climate issues. Chair Steintrager, the President, and the Chair of the Board addressed it. The President's remarks (<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/press-room/uc-president-michael-v-drake-md-opening-remarks-november-15-regents-meeting>) made reference to a "viewpoint neutral" history of the Middle East, which raised considerable questions regarding academic freedom. These questions were elaborated upon in a letter signed by 150 UC professors. The President then issued a clarification on his remarks; however, some lingering concerns remain. The Senate Chair's remarks to the Regents (<https://senate.universityofcalifornia.edu/files/resources/regents-remarks/nov-2023-regents-remarks.pdf>) initially focused on competitive remuneration, inflationary pressures and employee contributions to the retirement plan. However, they also dealt with freedom of expression in an academic context while stressing the importance of safety for students and faculty.

Chair Steintrager told the committee that the President approved the formation of a joint task force on instructional modalities and UC quality with an eye on online undergraduate degrees. That group hopefully will be starting its work prior to winter break and will report out at the Provost's congress in May. A final report is expected by the end of the academic year.

The Academic Council met recently and discussed the creation of a faculty survey on academic labor issues and labor relations. The Provost has brought in a consultant to talk about academic labor relations. The divisional chairs and chairs of systemwide committees met with her online, and more meetings likely will be forthcoming. Council has also formed a working group on AI. Chair Steintrager will be reaching out to committees and divisional chairs to see what they would like to cover in this arena. Obvious concerns about academic integrity and admissions will be addressed.

Senate Vice Chair Cheung reviewed the meeting of the Regent's Committee on Investments and Finance. He said that the Regents want to increase the

employee contribution to UCRP, but those efforts have been staved off by Chair Steintrager and CFO Nathan Brostrom. He observed that there have been large spikes in healthcare premiums, which were partly offset by the recent increase to the base salary level. The Vice Chair said that investment returns have been flat and there has been high volatility in the markets, which will have to be watched closely. On the capital projects front, UCM will be constructing a new medical education building, which was approved with considerable enthusiasm. UCLA will be demolishing and rebuilding a residence hall to accommodate more students. At the Health Services Committee meeting, plans from UCSD to expand their network north. Part of the plan is to restore women's and mental health care in Irvine. There are three distressed hospitals there that seem to be a good bargain, but they are just starting the evaluation/review.

Members had a few questions.

**X. Items Under Systemwide Review**

Revised Presidential Policy BFB-BUS-46 Use of Vehicles and Driver Authorization (was: Use of University Vehicles) [PDF](#)

UCIE opted not to opine on this matter.

**XI. New Business**

Professor Schultens asked about financial aid for students who want to study abroad. Members shared information from their experience.

**XII. Executive Session**

A. **Action Taken: *The Tec de Monterrey Program in Mexico City was approved 7-0-0.***

The committee adjourned at 1:41 p.m.