

## UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

## Minutes of Meeting

Friday, December 17, 2021

**I. Consent Calendar**

Approval of the Agenda and Minutes

**Action Taken:** *The agenda and minutes were approved as noticed 8-0-0.***II. Chair's Report – Vice Chair Michelle Leslie**

The Chair was not present; the Vice Chair led the meeting. She announced that UCIE's letter on Presidential Proclamation 10043 was presented to Council. She asked Andrea Goldman, who was at Council, to discuss that part of the meeting. Professor Goldman said that Council's response to the letter was positive. Many members said that UC should not be in the business of counter-espionage. However, a couple of Council members voiced concerns about China's "strong arm" tactics. Professor Goldman said that the discussion spread to a larger issue of campus climate and the chilling effect of the belief that ethnicity is related to espionage.

**III. Campus Updates**

UCB – The campus has 97 students abroad, and the projection for spring is to be near pre-pandemic numbers. Classes will be a combination of in-person and remote. The global internships program will maintain some of the same 2021 programs because they had very strong retention. Undocumented students are not able to travel abroad, but they will be able to do internships and "domestic study abroad." There were some programs centered around DEI that were very successful; students reported high enjoyment and satisfaction with them. The study abroad office is going to be working conscientiously on DEI initiatives and special populations.

UCD – The campus ran at least one campus-based study abroad program (London) and there is a plan for English-based programs in England, Mexico and Spain in the spring. Davis is engaged in continued efforts to help Afghan scholars. The campus has a program called Article 26 Backpack which allows members of at-risk populations to set up an account and upload their educational credentials. This would be an account they would have access to worldwide. It is funded by the Ford Foundation.

UCI – Study abroad has picked up. In the past, UCI had between 400-550 students going abroad, and the campus is back up to at least half of what it had before the pandemic. Many students wanted to go to Korea. Study abroad is engaging with the office of enrollment to ascertain which freshman and sophomore classes are impacted. The purpose is to determine whether it makes sense to structure a systematic study abroad program that would alleviate demand by having students take the courses overseas. This also would help quell student worry about delayed graduation.

UCLA – The campus wants to focus on mental health as well as DEI work. The pandemic has taken a toll on students, and international students in particular may feel that there is stigma attached to seeking support services. The office is going to work with other departments to develop outreach to students who may be experiencing crises. Last spring, the committee made a request to change the bylaws of the UCLA CIE with three goals in mind: to affirm that CIE is not just about UCEAP, but is also for international scholars; to integrate CIE into the grad council and undergrad council (and that the chair be *ex officio*); and to make the director of the international center *ex officio* as well. The senate leadership

approved the changes.

UCM – The Merced student body tends to be less affluent and less able to study abroad. Most of the international students are graduate students. The campus is concerned about their mental health and there have been many discussions about that making sure that the students have (allowable) social events and access to counseling and support services.

UCR – The campus is considering a revision to its general education requirements; this change may have an impact on international education, foreign language requirements, and related matters. Riverside just approved a one-credit course for prospective education abroad students. It is intended to educate students about the benefits of international experience and to culminate in program application. The campus is working to raise money to support Afghan scholars. There is \$24,000 on the table; the hope is that the campus may be able to attract additional funding. The campus is undergoing a search for vice provost of international affairs and is about to appoint a faculty director of education abroad.

UCSD – The member was not present.

UCSF – The campus had nothing to report.

UCSB – The campus has about 1500 students abroad and a major concern is mental health; the office is trying to get approval to hire additional psychologists. There is a UCOP mandate asking ISS offices to track all people on campus with a visa. The office does not have the means to do that and is pushing back. The office is trying to shift its financial model so that it can have more predictable and sustainable funding.

UCSC – The campus had nothing to report; activity is still depressed.

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

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

The Executive Director noted that - in general - things have gone well for the fall. However, her office has noticed an uptick in the number of students who are experiencing anxiety and depression. UCEAP worked to prepare its staff abroad so that they would have resources available for students.

UCEAP had 825 students out of country this term, with only 14 cases of COVID. About 700 students are planning to return to the US over the next few days. They have to complete a COVID test before travelling, and if they test positive, they will not be able to board a plane. COVID-positive students will have to quarantine in some locations for up to 10 days, which would mean that they would miss Christmas at home. UCEAP staff are working to prepare students for this possibility. The health, safety, and crisis management staff are on call 24 hours. If students are charged for their quarantine stay, they will be reimbursed by UCEAP.

UCEAP has launched the search for the associate dean position. The application deadline is in January. Some faculty members have already expressed interest in the position. It is 50 to 75 percent time, and can be held remotely. It is a two-year commitment. The Executive Director and the Director of Academic Development continue to have biweekly meetings with the SIOs. Their efforts have been focused on addressing enrollment management problems, course impact on particular campuses, and designing programs that will enable students to remain on track within their major. The meetings are proceeding well, and the Executive Director hopes to have proposals to bring to UCIE by the end of spring. This may require a summer meeting of the committee.

UCEAP had a very good meeting with the Promise Armenia Institute at UCLA. The Executive Director explained UC's engagement with the American University in Armenia. There may be more about this in the coming months.

The committee had some questions for the Executive Director.

## **V. Program Reviews**

### **A. Update on the 2020-21 10-Year Australia Review**

The Director of Academic Development reminded the committee that at the previous meeting UCEAP proposed the closure of the program with ANU because of low enrollment. UICE asked UCEAP to consider the review committee's suggestion that it put in place a parliamentary internship. Unfortunately, only Australian citizens and permanent residents are allowed to intern with the Australian Parliament, so most UC students would be ineligible. However, there is a robust government internship program and UC students could avail themselves of this opportunity. The program director recommends that UCEAP promote these internship options until the exchange agreement expires in 2024. At that time, UCEAP will see if enrollment has improved and will determine if it should start the renewal process for an additional five years of exchange.

## **VI. Information Item**

### **A. Program Closures**

#### **1. Summer Physics Program at the University of Sydney and Carlos III University**

This is a continuation of the closures mentioned at the last meeting. The major appeal of the program was its condensed format: in being able to complete a year-long course over the summer. The review committee did not approve of the shortened version of the program and suggested a considerable reduction of the program's content from three quarters to two quarters. UCEAP expects enrollments to drop significantly.

#### **2. University of Nicosia**

This was last year's three-year review. The review committee last year cited academic quality and student satisfaction as grounds for closure. There was also not much interest in the program.

## **VII. Consultation with Academic Senate Leadership**

*Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Chair*

*Susan Cochran, Academic Council Vice Chair*

The Council Chair said that Council endorsed UCIE's letter on Presidential Proclamation 10043 but that it is attentive to the fact that some members were a little chagrined that PRC authoritarianism was not adequately addressed. This aspect will be covered in the transmittal letter to the President.

Chair Horwitz told the committee that there was a settlement in the Unit 18 Lecturers' contract after two-and-a-half years. It is very good regarding pay and additional security that was negotiated. Everyone is very hopeful – it is a five-year contract. The University is still working around the GSR issue and the President is trying to maintain the distinction between a student and an employee. The Health Sciences clinical faculty are pushing to be recognized as members of the Academic Senate. There is an issue of very poor faculty morale and there is a sense that clinician morale would be improved if they were a part of the Senate. The Senate is taking this up.

At the Regents' meeting there was an adjustment to the budget in terms of the faculty salary ask. It is now four percent with an additional one-and-a-half percent devoted to equity gaps. How this works in terms of scale and off-scale is still opaque. For staff, the increase was four-and-a-half percent. In a similar vein, OP is proposing to change the employer contribution to UCRP in order to allow more money for the campuses to operate. OP proposes to reduce the employer contribution to UCRP from 15 percent to 14 percent, but to make up the loss by infusions of funds from STIP (the Short Term Investment Pool). The Senate was worried that it would be difficult to get the policy to go back up to the 15 percent in the future, and proposed a sunset clause of two years so that it would automatically go back up to 15 percent unless the Regents vote otherwise.

The Chair reported that the Regents took a much better tone about transfer at this most recent meeting. The Senate presented some data and personal stories about why transfer policy is necessarily difficult and complicated because each major at the UC reflects particular orientations to individual scholarly disciplines which make it very hard to have a singular set of courses that would satisfy transfer. The Regents seemed to understand this argument.

The Senate has been trying to push ECAS (Ethics, Compliance, and Audit Services) to put together a process so that when UC medical staff are affiliated with organizations with ethical and religious directives (ERDs), there is a whistleblower process in place so that staff are protected.

Chair Horwitz said that Senate has encouraged campuses to energize their campus climate activists to organize and form standing Climate Crisis Committees. The Senate is also considering writing a memorial to the Regents about climate; it would be oriented to campus operations and would try to reduce fossil fuel emissions by some very high percentage by the year 2030. This is still in early process. From the Senate, it would need to go to the Assembly and the campuses before going to the Regents. Separately, the Provost is responding to a push from Senate to put together a UC Online advisory committee that will include three Senate members. The Senate has also sent off for Senate review the recommendations of UCAF on the issue of political statements on department websites. It also has worked with the Provost's Office to finalize the language on the charge for the task force on Master's degree reviews.

The committee had some questions for the Senate leadership and there was discussion.

## **VIII. New Business**

There was no new business.

The committee adjourned 12:52 p.m.