Bill Jacob                              Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
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July 3, 2014

PRESIDENT JANET NAPOLITANO

Re: International Engagement Vision Statement

Dear Janet:

At its June 25 meeting, the Academic Council voted unanimously to forward to you the attached “UC International Engagement Vision Statement,” authored by the University Committee on International Education (UCIE). The Statement represents the Senate’s commitment to international engagement as an essential component of the University’s teaching, research, and public service missions and is the first of its kind for UC.

UCIE and the Council have noted your interest in expanding UC’s global reach and believe that this Statement can help provide UC with a clear values-based framework for thinking about international engagement and developing new international initiatives.

Sincerely,

Bill Jacob

Encl. (1)

Cc: Academic Council  
Provost Dorr  
Vice Provost Carlson  
Associate Vice Provost and UCEAP Executive Director Guinard  
Executive Director Winnacker
WILLIAM JACOB
ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR

RE: UCIE Vision Statement

Dear Bill,

The University Committee on International Education (UCIE) has revised its UC International Engagement Vision Statement, and is resubmitting it for Academic Council’s consideration. The committee has responded to Council’s comments and feedback. UCIE has shortened the document into a clear and succinct statement on UC’s values with a justification on the need for increasing engagement in this area. In the ‘Goals’ section, we have changed the former recommendation for a systemwide minimum one-year post-admission language requirement to a simple statement encouraging post-admission foreign language study.

As you know, neither the Senate, nor the University more broadly, has ever made a statement about international engagement. Given that UC prides itself on being a public university with global reach, UCIE believes it is important for UC to articulate a vision of international education and engagement, especially now, when universities around the world are trying to enhance their international profiles and internationalize themselves. In its current form, we also think that it will provide additional support for UCOP’s International Policy Workgroup, which is charged with developing an international activities policy. If approved by the Academic Council, UCIE asks that the Vision Statement be sent to President Napolitano (with copies to all campus chancellors and EVCPs), along with a request for a response to UCIE’s recommendations.

The Vision Statement articulates what UCIE takes to be fundamental principles of international education and collaboration. While many of these principles may seem self-evident, UCIE believes it is important to clearly state what is often tacitly assumed. We therefore propose this as a living document that can be adjusted over time and adapted by individual campuses, but also one that nevertheless reminds us of certain core values with respect to advancing internationalization at UC.

Some of the committee’s more prominent recommendations include the establishment of partnerships with foreign and international institutions for research and exchange; setting system-wide goals for undergraduate and graduate study abroad; and encourage the
establishment of a system-wide global innovation fund to advance creative initiatives from faculty, students and administrators for international teaching, research and service. We also believe that such a vision statement is especially timely, given that President Napolitano’s recently announced Mexico Initiative encapsulates many of these goals. It also goes without saying that UCIE is interested in leveraging the “power of ten” in increasing both the quality and quantity of UC’s international activities. Therefore, UCIE respectfully requests a response from President Napolitano regarding the committee’s recommended actions.

Greater international engagement in education and research is critical to maintaining academic excellence at UC. We offer this vision statement as a resource for guiding and enhancing the strategic international goals and programs of each campus. In a time of unprecedented international opportunities (with several campuses currently engaged in searches for a Vice Provost for Global/International Affairs), a universitywide statement on international engagement is necessary, and offers a cohesive strategy for further developing international partnerships and activities that best promote and contribute to the success of our students and faculty. We hope that the Academic Council agrees and will move to approve the statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Kern
Chair, UCIE

cc: UCIE
Academic Council Chair William Jacob
Senate Executive Director Martha Winnacker
UC International Engagement Vision Statement

As an institution of global consequence, the University of California has long held international engagement as a central element in its mission. International engagement is foundational to increasing the global impact of the University’s research mission, its ability to recruit the best and brightest graduate students from around the world, and its excellence in undergraduate teaching by preparing students to meet the challenges of an increasingly interdependent world of the twenty-first century.

Some of the goals of international engagement are:

• To foster curiosity, interest, and critical enquiry in international and global issues.
• To encourage international research collaboration and strategic partnerships in all ten campuses of the University of California
• To promote students’ ability to communicate in at least one language other than English
• To give students experience of the diversity of lives and living conditions in another land, including first hand engagement with the inequalities, poverty, and injustice experienced by many.

The University has worked to attain such goals over many years, and continued efforts are essential. Below are concrete actions the University might consider as it further pursues goals of international education and engagement:

• Establish a system-wide global innovation fund to advance creative initiatives from faculty, students and administrators for international teaching, research and service.
• Encourage and facilitate arrangements for international research by faculty, graduate and undergraduate students
• Reduce barriers to entry facing foreign graduate students (for example, waiving nonresident fees, streamlining visa processing for visiting scholars).
• Encourage post-admission foreign language study.
• Bolster support for international study programs, particularly scholarships for disadvantaged undergraduates.
• Deploy the power of ten campuses to garner funding, simplify administration, and provide institutional support for all of these activities.