To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

The Committee on International Education (CIE) held nine regularly scheduled meetings during the academic year and consulted with relevant campus administrators regarding issues within its purview.

Executive Summary

As per the Academic Senate bylaws, the purpose of CIE is “to provide advice and consent on all matters of international education and exchange, including practices that impact exchange students and scholars.”

During the 2018-2019 academic year, CIE

- Provided review of Memorandums of Understanding with international institutions
- Implemented the 5th biennial survey of international undergraduate students; analysis of the results to be distributed in fall 2019; responses to results and committee recommendations considered for 2019-20
- Reviewed systemwide policy concerning UC international activities
- Consulted with administration as needed including Simran Singh (Director, Office of International Students), Leesa Beck (Registrar), Juan Campo (Director, UCSB Education Abroad Program), David Marshall (Executive Vice Chancellor), Lisa Przekop (Director, Office of Admissions), Tricia Rascon (Director of Orientation Programs & Parent Services), and Paul Spickard (Chair, Committee on Admissions, Enrollment & Relations with Schools)
International Agreements

Memorandum of Understanding – UCSB Center for Catalan Studies and the University of Alicante on behalf of the Institut d’Estudis Catalans

The committee reviewed and did not endorse the MOU between the UCSB Center for Catalan Studies and the Institute for Catalan Studies (IEC) on behalf of the University of Alicante. The main goals of the MOU were to create a system for exchange of professors, researchers, and post-doctoral students to UCSB and universities with faculty belonging to the IEC. The MOU also involved an annual conference on Catalan Studies (to be held at UCSB), and sponsoring of publications. CIE decided to no endorse the MOU for several reasons including a lack of clarity regarding academic departments’ support and commitment to the MOU as well as insufficient clarity regarding the status of IEC and the degree to which the University of Alicante would be involved.

Memorandum of Understanding between the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis (NCEAS), UCSB and the Erasmus Mundus Master Course on Maritime Spatial Planning (EMMCMSP), Universita’ Iuav di Venezia

CIE reviewed and endorsed the MOU, but the committee also recommended clarification of some aspects of the agreement.

Memorandum of Understanding between the College of Engineering, UCSB and School of Engineering, School of Materials and Chemical Technology, and School of Environment and Society, Tokyo Institute of Technology (Renewal)

CIE reviewed and endorsed the renewal of this MOU.

Memorandum of Understanding between UCSB (EALCS) and the Korea Foundation (Renewal)

CIE reviewed and endorsed the renewal of this MOU.

Survey of International Undergraduate Students

This year, CIE conducted its 5th biennial survey of international undergraduate students in May - June 2019. The survey was commissioned by the Academic Senate, carried out by the Office of Budget and Planning, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment (IRPA), with support from the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor. The online questionnaire was distributed via email to undergraduate international students, of which 461 completed the survey, resulting in a final response rate of 21.8%. The survey results were analyzed by a graduate student in the Statistics and Applied Probability Department and further comparative analysis continued over the summer. The final report will be distributed in fall 2019. Current overall findings are highlighted as follows:

- Undergraduate survey respondents included students from 36 countries. The four countries with the most respondents were mainland China (80.6%), Taiwan (3.1%), South Korea (2.4%), and Japan (2.0%).
- 75.9% of respondents were admitted as freshmen and 24.1% were admitted as transfer students.
- 78.8% of respondents are part of the College of Letters and Sciences with 39.5% in the Division of Mathematics, Life and Physical Science (MLPS) and 30.4% in the Social Sciences. 10.1% of the survey participants are in the College of Engineering.
• 55.6% were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall academic experience at UCSB, a very slight decrease from the 2017 survey (58.5%) and a significant decrease from the 2011 survey when 84% reported they were satisfied or very satisfied.
• 41.6% of respondents said they were very satisfied or satisfied with their overall social experience at UCSB.
• 77.3% of respondents reported that they feel they are valued members of the UCSB community and 41.2% said they agree or strongly agree that they are equally respected on campus. However, 16.2% indicated that they have experienced physical threats, verbal threats, and damage to their personal property due to their race, ethnicity, nationality, or religion.
• 48.9% respondents have major or some difficulty in finding housing.
• The most common issues participants reported having trouble getting help with on campus were academic difficulties, registering for classes, handling stress, and English language skills.
• There were three leading factors that correlated with satisfaction in overall social experience: opportunities to make friends, meet people from a different country, and to make friends with American students; overall academic experience; and satisfaction with help received to develop English language proficiency.
• There were four top factors that correlated with satisfaction in overall academic experience: overall social experience; opportunities to make friends, meet people from a different country, and to make friends with American students; effectiveness of UCSB communicating information and guidance about academic standards, expectations of a US research University; and the overall sense of being a valued member of the UCSB community.

CIE will consider the findings and analysis of the survey in fall of 2019. The Committee will disseminate findings and will seek engagement from campus stakeholders to formulate a campus response.

Details of the survey results and Committee recommendations will be finalized in the Committee’s Report on International Undergraduate Students at UCSB 2019, which will be available upon request from the Academic Senate.

Information Items

• Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to Bylaw-336
• Letter Regarding the Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE)
• UC Transfer Guarantee Proposal
• Proposed Revision of Presidential Policy on Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment
• Academic Council Response to Reports from Two Tiger Teams on International Research and Students

Local Issues

OISS Proposal to Implement Hard Registration Blocks to Enforce Compliance with US Federal Registrar and Homeland Security
CIE reviewed OISS’s Proposal to Implement Hard Registration Blocks. After discussing the proposal and receiving additional information about the functionality of hard registration blocks from the Office of the Registrar, CIE reached consensus in support of OISS’s proposal. In addition to supporting the proposal, CIE also suggested that OISS track the outcome of using hard blocks in this manner to determine whether it is an effective way to bring students into compliance.
Student Conduct – Degree Clearance Proposal
CIE reviewed and discussed the proposal to change the UCSB Senate Regulations to require compliance with the Student Code of Conduct for final degree conferral. The committee consulted Leesa Beck (University Registrar) to clarify questions related to the judicial process. CIE consultant Simran Singh (Director of OISS) also clarified the role of OISS in maintaining communications with Office of Judicial Affairs and Registrar’s office as relates to any international students being investigated for conduct violation. CIE endorsed the proposal, with the expectation that the timeline of the adjudication process for conduct violation cases can be prioritized for those students who are very close to graduation, in order that the time to process does not adversely affect the future academic plans of students who might eventually be found to be not responsible.

Systemwide Issues

Current State Assessment Report for Systemwide Mexico Entities
CIE reviewed the report and provided comments on three aspects of the report. First, CIE recommended that the location remain in UC Riverside and did not find arguments to move it to UC San Diego to be compelling. Second, in regards to branding, CIE recommended keeping the UC-MEXUS brand as it has name recognition, historical impact, and is well-respected in Mexico. Third, CIE supported the proposal to consolidate the three entities under one umbrella, especially given the clear majority support from the stakeholders, and the diminishing budgets that were stretched across three entities.

Coordination with Administration

Simran Singh, Director, Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS)
The Director of OISS is a frequent attendee of meetings and is a valuable resource to inform CIE of current OISS initiatives, as well as news and policies that relate to the international community on campus.

Leesa Beck, Registrar, Office of the Registrar
The Registrar was consulted for clarification on the proposal concerning student conduct and degree clearance.

Juan Campo, Director, UCSB Education Abroad Program
The Director of EAP is an ex officio member of the Committee and acts as a resource regarding information about EAP.

David Marshall, Executive Vice Chancellor, UCSB
The Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor provided continued support for CIE’s biennial survey of international undergraduate students. CIE worked with EVC Marshall to add several new questions to the survey for 2019.

Lisa Przekop, Director, UCSB Office of Admissions
The Director was consulted regarding admissions procedures for international students and methods for testing English proficiency for international students.

Tricia Rascon, Director of Orientation Programs & Parent Services
The Director was consulted regarding orientation programs and procedures for international students,
with particular attention to the registration process and programs to help inform students about the standards for academic integrity at UCSB.

Paul Spickard, Chair of Committee on Admissions, Enrollment & Relations with Schools (CAERS)
Chair Spickard was consulted regarding international students admissions and the potential for creating language courses for international students prior to their arrival at UCSB.

Carry-over Issues and Future Initiatives

- Survey results distribution
- Campus resources for international students
- Future CIE Workshops, with a focus on discussing survey results with stakeholders
- Monitor needs of international scholars and visiting faculty

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