

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT: 2015-16

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

Per Bylaw 100 the purpose of the Committee on International Education (CIE) is to provide advice and consent on all matters of international education and exchange, including practice that impacts exchange students and scholars.

The committee held eight regularly scheduled meetings during the academic year and consulted with relevant campus administrators regarding issues within its purview. General issues and concerns are summarized below.

I. SYSTEMWIDE BUSINESS

Sexual Violence and Sexual Harassment Policy Revisions.v.2

CIE discussed the revisions and supports the policy. The committee also discussed the intent and potential of the policy being translated into multiple languages, and were concerned about the process and translation outcome. Members suggested that international students, scholars, and visitors also be made aware of the policy, and translators should be professionals in order to develop translations that are true to the original, at the same time be sensible to native cultures, values, and views. Given different cultural backgrounds members thought it would be important to include additional information in such translations to help provide context and clarifications of intended policies for international students, scholars, and visitors.

Report of the Joint Committee of the Administration and Academic Senate – Faculty Discipline, Sexual Violence, Assault and Harassment

Along with other Senate councils and committees, members of CIE were invited to review this report. The CIE did not have additional comments for consideration.

II. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS

The committee was introduced to the newly piloted GlobalEngagement@UCSB website administered by the Office of Research. Members were happy to see the initiative of this project and found the results very helpful. Members particularly liked having templates available to faculty when formulating exchange programs and that there are staff available to help with questions about proposals and preparations. This year the guidelines and template forms were helpful to CIE for reviewing international agreements and memorandum of understanding (MOUs). The CIE is pleased to see this project come to fruition and continue to develop over the coming year.

Colegio Bureche, Colombia

CIE was positive about this addition for the Teacher Education Program of Gevirtz School, which will provide further opportunities for UCSB students to study in Latin America at Colegio Bureche, Colombia. Members did express general concerns about the institution being only a K-12 school; however, CIE found that the educational programs proposed to be beneficial to exchange students in developing

practical educational skills and language. Regarding the exchange of graduate students, members agreed it would be important to make note of the difference between exchange students and visiting scholars. If exchange students are expected to take classes, they must be registered as UCSB students. Incidental course audits may be permitted, but exchange students would not be able to arrive only to audit courses. The CIE suggests such clarifications be made in the program to address this particular item moving forward.

Universite Nice Sophia Antipolis and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France

The committee finalized this review via email communication and offered a few comments. Parts of the document were found to be confusing to a few members. For example, article 3.1 seemed incomplete and the passage on confidentiality was opaque. One member noted that the MOU may have been directly translated from another language, which might be part of the issue and require rewriting. In addition, article 10 stated: "This agreement is subject to the laws and regulations of France." The CIE had some concerns about this statement being rather general and that there was no mention of any specific governing guidelines or other governing authority.

The document also appeared to overlook important aspects when considering expectations for visiting undergraduate students. For instance, if students are required to enroll and to earn course credit, one needs to be mindful that appropriate tuition and fees may need to be assessed. If student visits are strictly for research purposes and/or to audit selected courses, no tuition and fees would apply in those cases; however, auditing courses will not lead to the issuance of a transcript to the home institution, which might be problematic. These issues were not addressed in the MOU and should ideally be further clarified. Members agreed further elaborations would unlikely alter the interpretation of the MOU in a significant way, but should be addressed for clarity moving forward. Overall, the CIE was in favor of supporting the proposed programs in the MOU.

University of Music Wüerzburg, Germany (Hochschule für Musik Würzburg, Germany)

The committee reviewed the MOU between the Department of Music, UCSB, and the University of Music Wüerzburg and was in support of the proposed programs. Members suggested that the expectations of students and goals for academic outcomes to be included in the document, as they are not stated in the questionnaire. If the exchange students are expected to take classes at UCSB, undergraduate students must be registered through UCSB Extension or apply for a non-degree status with the Office of Admissions for undergraduate and graduate students.

University of Sydney, Australia

The committee reviewed the MOU between Psychological & Brain Sciences, UCSB and the University of Sydney. The CIE members reached consensus in support of this MOU and did not have additional comments regarding the proposal.

Xi'an Jiaotong University, China

While the CIE found the possibility of having an academic partnership with a top university in China to be compelling, there could be some major practical implications of the Extension and Open Enrollment program that need to be considered, especially with the expected enrollment surge at UC campuses. For courses and departments that are already heavily impacted, continuing to increase non-matriculated

student enrollment may significantly displace matriculated UCSB students. Additionally, the records of students who register through Extension are not reviewed with the same set of academic requirements as UCSB Admission, and the process and student preparation have traditionally been concerns of the committee. The CIE recommended consultation at the department level, especially for courses already highly impacted, as part of the process of preparing for new partnerships.

Al Farabi Kazakhstan National University – Renewal Request

This request was submitted after the last CIE meeting of the year. Members independently reviewed the MOU between UCSB and Al Farabi Kazakhstan National University and the assessment was finalized through email. The committee members made note of all the endorsements from chairs and deans that especially highlighted the success of this program. The CIE supports the request for renewal.

Tohoku University – Retroactive Extension Request

In October 2015 the CIE reviewed and supported the retroactive extension and continuation of the MOU between California NanoSystems Institute, UCSB and Tohoku University. The collaboration would have ended in 2013 and an approval of the request extended the validity of the MOU until June 30, 2016.

The committee mentioned that Tohoku University appears to have a strong program in nanoscience and the MOU helps support members of UCSB to access important facilities for specialized nano-fabrication and other laboratories. The committee also recognized that the program had already established valuable research connections and student exchanges. Members complimented Tohoku University in showing commendable resilience in the face of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami aftermath and wishes them well. CIE was pleased to see this exchange program continue and develop.

III. SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

This year CIE presented a report of the survey conducted in May 2015 that 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 1,059 undergraduate international students, of which 230 completed the survey, resulting in a final response rate of 21.7%. Due to the timing of the survey concluding near the end of the spring quarter, last year's committee was not able to thoroughly review the questionnaire results and provided a preliminary summary. The analysis carried forward to this year and the committee's findings are highlighted as follows:

- 57.5% of the participants were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall academic experience, while 33.6% were somewhat satisfied;
- 37.8% agreed or strongly agreed that students of their background are respected on campus, while 13.8% indicated that they felt they had either been verbally insulted, physically threatened, or received unequal treatment because of their race, ethnicity, nationality, or religion; and
- 43.2% of participants indicated they were satisfied or very satisfied with their overall social experience, while 30.9% were somewhat satisfied;

In addition, while participants indicated that writing in English and making friends with domestic students were somewhat difficult or very difficult (21.3% and 25.1% respectively), the *IRPA Briefing Report* noted only 7.3% of survey respondents attended the English Conversation Program hosted by the Office of International Students and Scholars, and 48.4% reported that they only spoke their home language outside of class.

With the findings and analysis, CIE offered the following recommendations:

- encourage student participation and social integration;
- promote faculty/staff understanding and awareness;
- develop a central database of all campus resources for international students and faculty;
- identify the needs of international transfer students; and
- new survey design for spring 2017.

Details of the survey results and committee recommendations can be found in the *Report on Undergraduate International Students at UCSB*, which can be available upon request.

IV. CIE WORKSHOP – HOW TO BEST SUPPORT FACULTY IN THE CLASSROOM WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

One of the outcomes from CIE members' analysis of the survey results was to encourage faculty and staff understanding and awareness of international education to further enhance educational experiences of international students at UCSB. CIE took the initiative to propose a workshop for faculty and instructors, and with the support of the Academic Senate, a three-hour workshop was held on May 4, 2016 at the University Center Harbor Room.

The workshop featured three presenters from Instructional Development, English for Multilingual Students Program and the Campus Learning Assistance Services, and introduced the following topics:

- techniques for engagement of international students in the classroom;
- language and writing resources; and
- tutoring and support services available for international students.

The workshop also consisted of an interactive three-student panel, including two international undergraduates and one graduate student. The event was well-received and had 45 attending participants of faculty, staff, and Teaching Assistants/Associates engaged in dynamic and constructive discussions. The presentation materials have been made available for public use on the Academic Senate webpage: <https://senate.ucsb.edu/meetings/>.

Based on the workshop discussions and survey findings, participants had the following suggestions:

- develop a guidebook and/or website on campus resources for international education;
- offer online courses on ethics and academic integrity;
- customized training for International TAs; and
- find ways to encourage international student engagement in campus activities.

There were also significant interests and inquiries about having a future workshop, which CIE may explore next year.

V. CONSULTATIONS WITH THE ADMINISTRATION

- Marsha Bankston, Associate Registrar, Academic Records & Student Services, Office of the Registrar
- Sara Cook, Assistant Registrar, Academic Services, Office of the Registrar
- Anthony Schmid, Associate Registrar, Systems Operations and Development, Office of the Registrar
- Simran Singh, Director, Office of International Students & Scholars

VI. CARRY-OVER ISSUES

(1) International Student Housing

A proposal for an I-House at UCSB was introduced to the committee, to include UCSB matriculated and Education Abroad Program reciprocal and outgoing students. Housing needs may become critical with the enrollment surge and it was noted that Berkeley and San Diego campuses already have I-Houses, while Riverside has a plan in place. CIE members welcomed the idea and supported the proposal with a suggestion to add visiting scholars, Fulbright fellows and graduate students (and families) for consideration. The proposal will be updated and revisited in the fall.

(2) Campus Resources for International Students

There is interest amongst some committee members to gather information about all the campus resources available to international students and to help provide a clear access point for faculty working with or advising students.

(3) Future CIE Workshops

The workshop for faculty that was held in May was well received and there were inquiries from non-participants for future opportunities to attend. There was also a recommendation to hold a similar workshop for International TAs. The committee tabled the discussion and would like to explore these possibilities in the coming year.

(4) Survey of International Undergraduate Students

The survey of international undergraduate students had been conducted biennially in recent years and the next survey would be in spring 2017. One member proposed that the survey be postponed to give more time for the campus and the committee to see the results of the actions taken, such as the outcomes of the CIE workshop and the 6.0 units offered for the “English for Academic Success” sessions. The committee will resume discussion in the fall quarter and consider the timing and design of the next survey.

VII. MEMBERS

Heather Blurton
Andrés Consoli
Laurie Freeman
Jan Frodesen

Howard Giles

Maria Iglesias-Rodriguez

Luc Jaeger

Luke Roberts

Nuha Khoury

Juan Campo, EAP Campus Director, Ex-Officio (started 1/4/2016)

Francisco Lomeli, Interim EAP Director, Ex Officio (ended 1/3/2016)

Himangshu Chowdhury, Associated Students Representative

Paul Atzberger, Chair