

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION 2020-21 Annual Report

To: Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on International Education (CIE) advises the Senate and campus administration on matters related to international education on the UC Santa Cruz campus, initiates studies and reviews, and assists in the formulation of policies regarding international education at UC Santa Cruz. This year, CIE's work focused on engagement with the campus's strategic planning for campus internationalization, collaboration with the administration on the global seminar (formerly faculty led study abroad) proposal review process, and issues related to international student welfare and success—focusing on exploring areas of need through information gathering and consultation that will form the basis of continued work next year

Strategic Planning for Campus Internationalization and ACE Lab Review

The committee continued its multi-year engagement with the administration around strategic planning for internationalization. As stated in last year's annual report¹, the current strategic planning process began at the end of 2017-18, when the campus launched the American Council of Education (ACE) Internationalization Lab. Due to COVID-19 delays, the ACE Lab completion date was revised and set for June 2021.

Two major points of review and consultation took place this year in regards to the ACE Lab process: 1) CIE's review of the "final draft" of the UC Santa Cruz ACE Internationalization Lab Report and Strategic Plan for Internationalization (hereafter ACE final draft report), and 2) CIE's participation in the peer review site visit through a consultation with CIE at its meeting of February 9, 2021, attended by the ACE Lab peer reviewers (including the campus's ACE mentor) and campus ACE Lab co-chairs interim Vice Provost for Global Engagement (iVPGE) Richard Hughey, Assistant Vice Provost (AVP) Becky George, and Professor Jeremy Hourigan.

iVPGE Hughey requested CIE review of the ACE final draft report during January 2021. CIE, in its comments on first review of the report (CIE to Senate Chair 1/21/20), expressed a desire for a second review, given its interest in collaboration with Global Engagement on advancing the strategic planning process and particularly in including long standing CIE goals for faculty research collaborations, international student growth, and international student well-being in the strategic plan. During this second review CIE noted that many of the issues raised during the committee's first review had not been addressed, and remained concerned about the draft plan laying out a list of activities and initiatives without discussion of funding strategy and priorities. CIE continued to express concern with the lack of specificity regarding prioritization of goals and related budgetary questions. CIE also noted that the ACE final report draft provided to the committee did not have any of the links to pertinent information within the report enabled, making it difficult to gain further insight. Given these limitations CIE provided additional specific feedback and recommendations, which the committee hoped to see incorporated in the ACE final

¹<https://senate.ucsc.edu/committees/cie-committee-on-international-education/cie-annual-reports/1980-cie-annual-report-2019-20.pdf>

report. CIE requested a definition of the term “comprehensive internationalization” firmly grounded in an objective assessment of the possibilities for action at the UC Santa Cruz campus specifically. CIE noted that while the phrase was used throughout the draft report, it lacked a connection to clearly articulated objectives that take into account feasibility and budgetary issues. CIE also expressed concern that “domestic study away opportunities” were included as a priority in the draft report. CIE reiterated its concern about both the first and second drafts of the report conflating international experience with domestic exchange, and although supportive of domestic exchange programs, CIE suggested that the primary mission of international education is to expose students to cultures and experiences *outside* of the U.S. and expressed that “study away” would potentially dilute this mission, especially for students less able to afford international experiences. In summary, CIE suggested “study away” did not belong under the umbrella of Global Engagement. CIE also expressed concerns about the decline in support for foreign language instruction at UC Santa Cruz, and suggested that language acquisition must go hand-in-hand with strategic planning for internationalization. Finally, CIE did acknowledge the progress Global Engagement had already made on some of the initiatives in the draft plan, including around the Collaborative Online International Learning initiative.

CIE was asked to participate in the ACE Lab peer review site visit, through ACE peer reviewer and ACE Lab campus co-chair consultation with the committee at its February 9, 2021 meeting. CIE was one of several stakeholder groups invited to meet with the ACE Lab reviewers. iVPGE Hughey informed CIE that the main purpose of the peer review was for the ACE review team to learn about the ACE Lab process at UC Santa Cruz, understand the progress made, and use the information to make recommendations (email communication 2/2/21). CIE requested additional information to prepare for the consultation and learned that the committee would have the opportunity to ask questions and engage in discussions, including about CIE’s involvement in the strategic planning process. CIE chair Nina Treadwell invited Senate Chair David Brundage and Senate Committee on Courses of Instruction Chair Yat Li to attend the consultation alongside CIE members.

The committee expressed disappointment in the tone, tenor, and content of the consultation. In a follow-up memo to iVPGE Richard Hughey (dated 3/29/21), the committee memorialized its impressions of the consultation, and noted that it believed the ACE Lab reviewers dismissed out of hand CIE’s concerns, including its concerns regarding prioritization and attention to budget, stating that such an approach was entirely misguided. CIE noted it was taken aback by the critiques of CIE’s review by each of the three reviewers, precluding the opportunity for productive conversation. CIE members experienced the ACE reviews as hostile, condescending, and unwilling to entertain the ideas in CIE’s review of the final draft.

In the same follow up communication (3/29/21), CIE expressed concern regarding GE’s lack of responsiveness to CIE input into the draft report. It is the committee’s understanding that the final Strategic Plan for Internationalization will be delivered to the Chancellor, and eventually distributed to the campus, however it is not clear to the committee if that report has been finalized and delivered. CIE remains deeply committed to furthering the goals of international education at UC Santa Cruz, and believes that a strategic planning process should include the Senate as it moves forward with implementation in the next year. CIE will continue to monitor this issue in the next academic year and looks forward to meaningful collaboration with the ACE Lab group.

Advocacy for a Campus International Student Lounge

Early in the 2020-21 year, CIE began discussions about the need for an international student lounge on the campus, one that would be a space of support for international students. CIE had grave concerns regarding the sense of displacement experienced by international students due to COVID-19 (and the wildfires in the Santa Cruz region), in addition to the continuous confusion regarding international visas during the Trump administration. (CIE was also cognizant of the inevitable impact these unsettling confusions would have on future international enrolments and, as a consequence, the potential serious decline in revenue for the university.) The assets of a student lounge were discussed throughout the year and soon became a pro-active collaboration between the committee and the Division of Global Engagement (GE). The topic emerged during a consultation with iVPGE Hughey and AVP George (11/17/20), somewhat fortuitously, as a mutual interest. CIE then consulted with AVP George during winter quarter (2/9/21) to discuss the issue further. During this consultation, the committee discussed how it could support GE in its existing efforts. CIE reviewed GE's student survey and summary document of ideas for an international lounge. CIE began discussing this in more depth thereafter, including centering its approach to advocacy that would ensure long term investment in retention and recruitment of international students. That is, CIE envisioned the international student lounge as a space that was not simply a "drop-in" space, but that was structured to provide intentional programming and came with a small, but sustained investment from the campus. CIE followed up this effort with a communication to CP/EVC Kletzer (dated 4/6/21). In this communication, CIE outlined its support for such a center, underscored by the need for a sense of belonging and safety for international students that could very well be an asset to further successful recruitment and retention of international students. This center would also serve to increase interactions between domestic and international students.

In its communication to CP/EVC Kletzer, CIE suggested that one model might be to institute a small governance board consisting of key stakeholders, including both undergraduate and graduate international students, as well as faculty members invested in the international student experience. CIE asked the CP/EVC to consider a small investment of space and resources to make the international lounge a reality for international student support on the campus. CIE received a response from iVPGE Hughey (dated 5/13/21), thanking the committee for its endorsement of the development of an international resource center and lounge, and providing an update on his discussion of the issue with the CP/EVC. He noted that while the lounge had not yet been established, GE was launching some of the programming that would eventually be associated with the creation of the center.

CIE followed up communication with AVP George and consulted once more (5/25/21) on GE's efforts to secure space for an international student lounge as well as GE's vision for that space. CIE was also concerned that momentum on this issue not be lost as the academic year came to a close, and continued to see the development of this space as an important issue that would support future international student recruitment, but also retention and positive student experience. CIE decided to follow up with a final letter, this time to the Chancellor and CP/EVC (dated 6/4/21). In that correspondence, CIE reiterated its support for an international student resource center, even if given a temporary (if not permanent) location, situated near the center of campus. CIE reiterated that this space would provide a sense of community and support for students and recommended

that the project move forward quickly, especially in light of the displacement experienced by international students due to COVID-19 and their impending return to campus. Recognizing the space constraints on campus, CIE nonetheless requested that the Chancellor and EVC consider designating a space with an opening date of the beginning of fall 2021, as the campus reopens for instruction. The committee will continue to monitor any developments in this issue, and plans to continue to work with GE to make this space a reality for international students, during the next academic year.

Review of Global Seminar (formerly Faculty Led Study Abroad) Proposals

CIE's 2019-20 annual report noted it was in the fourth year of an extended pilot phase for the faculty led study abroad proposal review process, and no further changes to the process were expected this year. However, this year's review of the proposal review process was due to GE's renaming/rebranding of its programming, including the faculty led study abroad programs, now called "global seminars," necessitating language changes to CIE's review forms. CIE was not asked to provide input on the GE rebranding of the faculty led program, but nonetheless expressed concerns about this rebranding. CIE noted that "global seminars" could become a slippery slope where many different types of programs might eventually be added, including "study away" programs that are not study abroad programs and therefore dilute the type of experiences offered to students. In expressing this concern (see CIE to AVP George and Study Abroad Director Michel 12/8/20), CIE affirmed the importance of international study abroad, including for those with less financial means, and emphasized that providing this opportunity remains central to the rebranded global seminar experience. CIE was concerned that dropping the "faculty led" in the previous nomenclature might open the door to experiences that are not created and run by faculty; further, "global seminars" diffuses the essential association with in-person study abroad, which could lead to confusion, potentially leaving the door open to virtual study abroad. While CIE understood that the rebranding was not intended by GE to substantively affect the programs and the manner in which they were run, CIE did register a concern about the potential future dilution of the original intention of the program—to provide a faculty led international learning experience for students. During its fall process review, CIE also declined GE's request that global seminar submission of chair assessment form follow a revised timeline. CIE agreed that the chair assessment should continue to be part of the eligibility review conducted by Study Abroad *prior* to submitting materials for CIE review.

This year, CIE received and reviewed one global seminar proposal. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, submissions for global seminars were lower in number than would be expected in a normal year (last year CIE initially reviewed nine proposals). Criteria guiding the review remained the same as last year. CIE believes that support for Global Seminars is an important way to facilitate broader international engagement, to increase the visibility of UC Santa Cruz abroad, and to enhance undergraduate education through multicultural interactions. The committee considered the proposal's description of: (1) the target demographic and student selection criteria; (2) academic content and quality vis-a-vis campus and international learning objectives; (3) relevant faculty member experience and preparedness to lead a study abroad program; and (4) course feasibility as it relates to facilities and services at the proposed host institution. CIE is not equipped to evaluate risk and safety of the Global Seminar; this will be evaluated comprehensively by the Study Abroad Office. Instead, CIE is looking for evidence that the faculty is aware of any ongoing safety concerns and the need for plans to address them. While CIE found the proposal promising,

the committee did request revisions and requested resubmission of the proposal in order to address some lingering concerns. Citing the need to move forward in a timely manner, iVPGE Hughey asked the proposer to address the remaining concerns cited in CIE's letter as they moved forward with CCI review, foregoing submission of a revised proposal for CIE review. Given this, the recently implemented joint GE/CIE review of the proposal did not take place. CIE looks forward to resuming the joint review schedule in the next academic year, along with what it hopes is a resumed increase in global seminar proposals from the faculty. The committee may also need to revisit timelines for the next review cycle (including proposal submission, global seminar faculty workshops, and committee review timeline) early in fall quarter, and will work with GE and the Study Abroad Office to coordinate these tasks.

International Enrollment and Recruitment

CIE annually consults with Associate Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management (AVCEM) Michelle Whittingham on international recruitment, admissions, and enrollment related issues. This year, the committee requested an update about planning for international admissions within the context of continuing COVID-19 impacts and restrictions. The committee continued to be interested in nonresident current enrollments as well as targets for the following year, and was particularly interested in international recruitment strategies intended to enroll a broader diversity of international students. This year, AVCEM Whittingham asked Assistant Director of Global Admissions David Joiner to participate in the consultation. CIE found the consultation to be informative and appreciated AVCEM Whittingham's openness to continued conversations with CIE. During the consultation, members learned that international student retention is higher than domestic student retention, allaying committee concerns about this issue. CIE will want to follow up next year to review retention data.

International Student Welfare and Success

International student welfare and success has been one of the key areas of focus for CIE. This issue is woven into much of the work CIE engages throughout the year, including its participation and support for campus strategic planning for internationalization and its advocacy for a student lounge, as noted in earlier sections of this report. In addition, early in fall quarter, members also sought to gather information on what resources were available to international students, some of which informed the consultations the committee sought out, as discussed below. CIE's early fall consultation with iVPGE Hughey and AVP George also discussed aspects of these issues, including contingency planning for communication and support for international students during emergencies (this was in context of the CZU fire and campus evacuation). In response to some of the issues raised by CIE, GE made some updates to its website and communicated with CIE about how broader communication with international students takes place via targeted announcements, which are an efficient way to communicate with students of differing constituents within the UCSC international community.

The remaining section below will focus on two consultations that directly touched on international student welfare and success, with iVice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Success Jennifer Baszile and with GE AVP Becky George and Director Lisa Swaim.

CIE consulted with interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Success Jennifer Baszile during winter quarter (2/23/21). This was the committee's introduction to iVCSAS Baszile and the

restructured Division of Student Affairs and Success. The committee was interested in learning more about the division, about the ways in which the division supports international student success, and ways in which the division and CIE might collaborate to promote the success and welfare of international students (both graduate and undergraduate). CIE was particularly interested in how the division works with other units on campus, given the ways in which different units share accountability and purview over international student issues, a model that makes strategic planning and implementation of initiatives to advance international student success and well-being a challenge for the campus. CIE viewed this first consultation with iVCSAS Baszile as a beginning of a conversation and collaborative work, and looks forward to continuing to work with the division in the next academic year.

Earlier in the year, CIE consulted with GE AVP Becky and George and Director of Global Programming Lisa Swaim (11/3/20). Based on earlier communication with AVP George, the committee scheduled this consultation to learn more about what GE was already doing related to international student welfare, including what resources exist for students, engagement on quality of student experiences and resources available to support international students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. CIE was also interested in learning about plans to increase student support in the context of shifting federal policy and COVID-19. AVP George and Director Swaim provided an orientation into the structure and programming of the division for international students. CIE raised questions about how these services are communicated to the international student community, and how GE coordinates with the Division of Student Affairs and Success.

Much of the committee's work this year related to international student welfare and success centered on information gathering. The committee worked to gain a better understanding of what resources exist across the campus and how international students are supported where different units have overlapping purview of different aspects of international student success. The student representatives on CIE contributed much to these discussions. The uncertainties of federal policies, and COVID-19 impacts on travel and student housing were also issues that the committee worked with GE to learn more about.

CIE Representation

Chair Treadwell served on the systemwide UCIE committee. In that capacity, she also participated in UCIE's ten-year review of the University of California Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) New Zealand program. *Ex-Officio* member Hourigan continued serving in a lead role in the campus ACE Internationalization Lab strategic planning process.

CIE Consultations

In addition to the consultations discussed above with iVPGE Hughey and AVP George (11/17/21), AVP George and Director Swaim (11/3/21), iVCSAS Baszile (2/23/21), AVCEM Whittingham (5/21), and AVP George (5/25/21), the committee also consulted with GE Study Abroad Director Alice Michel (1/26/21) on an overview of the Study Abroad Office within GE, including its organizational structure and staffing. CIE also requested data on student participation in study abroad, as well as Study Abroad capacity for global seminar development. In addition, the committee consulted with UCEAP Associate Dean Hsiu-Zu Ho (4/27/21). She provided the committee with resource links related to UCEAP and also provided systemwide and campus specific data on UCEAP participation, as well as data on academic integration.

Local and System-wide Issue Review

In addition to the issues identified in earlier sections of the report, the committee reviewed and commented on the following issues and/or policies:

- System-wide Review of Proposed Revisions to Senate Regulation 630 (November 2020)

Continuing Issues for CIE in 2021-22

- Continue to engage with Global Engagement on a model of collaboration that enhances communication and shared governance on issues related to international education
- Continue to monitor ACE Lab progress and initiatives, and continue to engage in conversations about strategic planning and investment in internationalization initiatives within campus budget constraints; learn more about plans for the balance of “study away” and study abroad programs
- Continue monitoring and collaborating with GE on efforts for an international student lounge/resource center
- Continue monitoring and collaborating with GE on housing for international visiting scholars
- Continue collaboration with administration (and CCI as needed) in review of global seminars (formerly faculty led proposals)
- Reach out to international student constituents including Graduate Student Association International Student Chair
- Monitor campus efforts (Graduate Division, Student Success, Undergraduate Education) to address issues of international graduate and undergraduate student welfare and success

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Rebecca Braslau

Kent Eaton

Camilo Gomez-Rivas (F,W)

Lars Fehren-Schmitz

Fitnat Yildiz

Jeremy Hourigan, *ex-officio*

Nina Treadwell, Chair

Qianxue “Peggy” Zhang, UG Student Representative

Daniel Rodriguez Ramirez, Grad Student Representative

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