

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION Annual Report 2023-24

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, including the allocation of resources for international education and the status and welfare of international students at UCSC. It initiates, reviews, and assists in the formulation of policies regarding international education on the UCSC campus. In consultation with other Senate committees, CIE provides guidance, advice, and oversight regarding all academic matters related to international education.

This year, CIE focused much of its efforts on helping to diagnose and analyze the worrisome drop that has taken place in international student enrollments at UCSC since 2020. CIE also continued its practice of reviewing Global Seminars from the previous summer (2023), sought to standardize the process through which Global Engagement (GE) requests CIE approval of changes to existing Global Seminars, and engaged in efforts to restore the campus's faculty Education Abroad Program (EAP) director position. CIE consulted with a variety of campus stakeholders on issues related to international student admissions, enrollment, and success, as well as study abroad.

Compared to last year, when CIE had only four members for winter and spring, it helped to have a full roster of faculty members this year (eight in fall, seven in winter, and six in spring). As in the previous two academic years, no undergraduate student representative was appointed to this committee, although we did have a graduate student representative starting in winter quarter.

I. Review of Global Seminar Courses, Proposals, and Changes, and Standardization of the Process for Approving Global Seminar Changes

CIE was pleased to review the eight Global Seminars that took place in summer 2023 (in Costa Rica, Cuba, Czech Republic and Germany, France, Ireland, Japan, Morocco, and South Africa and Malawi), and saw evidence of several very successful seminars with different kinds of strengths. Thinking systematically across the eight offerings, some issues did emerge. First, numerous instructor comments made note of student immaturity and disinterest. Second, CIE noted several student and faculty comments about the inadequacies of the pre-departure student orientation. Third, student mental health crises posed significant challenges for the instructors. In response to these issues, CIE encouraged GE to make course expectations more explicit during recruitment, to offer in-person pre-departure orientations and require that students complete a quiz following orientation, and to better prepare instructors for mental health crises for when they occur. CIE also found that some of the faculty reports were so thin as to be unusable, and encouraged GE to return these reports to faculty when they have not been fully completed.

Unfortunately, despite the call for Global Seminar proposals that went out in spring 2023 and the holding of several workshops over the summer of 2023, only one new global seminar proposal was submitted and reviewed by CIE in the fall quarter. The committee is very enthusiastic about this new seminar in Madrid scheduled for summer 2025 (which will be led by Latin American and

Latino Studies Professor Catherine Ramírez, and which will focus on “Latin American Spain”). One additional, off-cycle request for a new Global Seminar was reviewed in winter 2024, and returned by CIE with a request for revision.

CIE also approved many change requests this year for existing Global Seminars, including a revised request for a change of location to the Eco-Entrepreneurship Global Seminar (from Costa Rica to the Netherlands), a change of location from Berlin to London for the “Food Study Field Study” course, a change of instructor for “Advanced Contemporary Forms and Practices within a Global Context in Dance,” an increase from two credits to five credits for “Podcasting: Digital Storytelling in Ireland,” and a one-time change of credits for “Film History and Preservation in Bologna, Italy” (from 10 credits to seven, approved for Summer 2024 only). Over the summer, Chair Eaton also reviewed and approved a change of location request for the “Art and Globalization” course, from the Czech Republic to the UK. Two additional change of location requests for summer 2025 were expected from GE during summer 2024, but were not received.

Due to staffing shortages in GE, GE decided in spring 2024 to not issue a call for new Global Seminars; as such, CIE will not be reviewing any new proposals in fall 2024 (one of the few areas where the committee has plenary authority). While no new proposals will be entertained, a few proposals that are already in the development pipeline will go forward and may be ready for CIE review in the fall. While CIE laments the decision not to solicit new proposals, we completely understand that, given the time-consuming nature of designing, marketing, and implementing Global Seminars abroad, it is simply not possible to add to UCSC’s portfolio of seminar offerings without sufficient staff support in GE. This is unfortunate, as the success of our Global Seminars is an achievement that has put UCSC on the map in terms of international education, and was likely a factor in our selection as a recipient of the Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization in March 2024. In the absence of new proposals, one priority going forward will be to figure out how to boost participation in those Global Seminars that have already been approved, some of which have been canceled in the past due to insufficient student participation.

Finally, given the number of requests that CIE receives to sign off on changes to existing Global Seminars, the committee worked to standardize what it is that CIE needs to see in order to approve these changes in a streamlined fashion. Specifically, CIE clarified which questions from the Global Seminar proposal form instructors would need to answer so that CIE can make its determinations, including for proposed changes in location, changes in instructor, and changes in credits. CIE is also requesting new syllabi for all Global Seminar change requests, which were typically not submitted as part of change requests in the past. While we hope this new process will prove to be more efficient and allow for more thorough review, CIE did learn that the Global Seminar proposal form changed somewhat from the version we had access to. Future CIEs will need to ensure that the Global Seminar change request process aligns with the proposal form questions each year. Also, Assistant Vice Provost (AVP) of Global Engagement Becky George has requested that CIE consider delegating some Global Seminar change approvals to GE. In 2024-25, CIE may consider asking GE which types of change requests they receive and potentially delegating some change approvals to GE. Nevertheless, changes to Global Seminar locations, instructors, and credits should remain in CIE’s purview.

II. International Enrollment and Recruitment

Based on what we learned in our spring 2023 consultation with Associate Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management (AVCEM) Michelle Whittingham (in terms of the worrisome decline in international student enrollment that has taken place on our campus), CIE decided in fall 2023 that we should devote our available time and energy this year to studying this issue and making recommendations for how to boost enrollment. We moved forward our consultation with AVC Whittingham to the fall quarter (rather than spring), and sought to gather information about the nature of the problem. Initially, we divided our efforts into the three main phases of international student matriculation: recruitment, admissions, and yield. CIE worked with Enrollment Management (EM) and commented on an analysis of international enrollment that EM conducted mid-year, which sought to diagnose the problem and emphasized the importance of the campus's overly conservative approach to the "compare favorably" metric. CIE was pleased to learn in February 2024 that the Chancellor had authorized the use of a less stringent approach to compare favorably, which will hopefully improve the enrollment aspect of the problem by allowing for greater numbers of international applicants to be admitted. Indeed, CIE saw evidence of improvement within data for fall 2024 enrollments that AVC Whittingham shared at the end of the spring quarter (which, unfortunately, does not show an increase in recruitment, but does show a significant increase in the percentage of international applicants who were admitted—an admit rate of 77.1% versus 58.8% for fall 2023).

As a result of the positive change in the compare favorably metric, CIE focused its remaining winter quarter efforts on diagnosing problems in the two other phases of the international enrollment process: recruitment and yield. With respect to recruitment, we proposed using third-party recruiters in countries beyond China and India to boost the number of applications while improving both ethnic and degree diversity. CIE also explored other avenues to garner additional applications, including direct networking with international high schools, outreach to foreign-born Bay Area residents, and the creation of dual degree or mobility programs. With respect to our yield problem, CIE noted that, because a large portion of international admits are already resident or studying in the US at the time they apply, there may be a way to incorporate familial and community connections within our diverse region in the planning and holding of events designed to boost yield. CIE also found that increasing geographic diversity can also help with yield since students from India overwhelmingly apply for the impacted Computer Science and Engineering majors. Finally, CIE discussed structural issues such as cost of living and limited housing as barriers to yielding international students and resumed the committee's calls in previous years for an international student space on campus, which could make UCSC a more welcoming option for admitted students.

In April, CIE shared a memo summarizing our findings and recommendations with AVCEM Whittingham and a number of other stakeholders on campus. Continuing to pay attention to this issue, which is of critical importance for reasons that range from classroom diversity issues to campus financial challenges (posed by under-enrolling international students who pay non-resident tuition), will be important for CIE in the coming academic year. A key measurement for CIE to keep its eye on is the percentage of international students in the UC system who are enrolled at UCSC (currently only UC Merced has a lower percentage within the UC). AVCEM Whittingham also shared with CIE in late May 2024 that an increasing number of international students at UCSC are qualifying for California residency or receiving tuition exemptions, with only 65% paying non-resident student tuition in 2023. This is something for CIE to have on its radar next year as well.

III. Campus Faculty EAP Director

In fall 2024, Chair Eaton met with UCEAP Associate Deans Peter Graham and David Lopez-Carr, who expressed the strong desire that UCSC restore the position of its Campus Faculty EAP Director. According to Associate Deans Graham and Lopez-Carr, UCSC is the only UC campus currently without a faculty member in this role, an exception that they hoped could be addressed as soon as possible. Chair Eaton then had Zoom conversations with several Campus Faculty EAP Directors at other campuses to learn more about the varied ways that this role is structured and compensated. In CIE's winter 2024 consultation with AVP George, and in subsequent correspondence to Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education and Global Engagement (VPDUE/GE) Richard Hughey, CIE expressed our view that this position should be restored so that UCSC can send a faculty director to the quarterly meetings that EAP holds (via Zoom) with all of the UC campus faculty EAP directors. CIE sees additional positive benefits that could accrue to the campus from such a position (which we have had in the recent past), as the faculty member in this role would work to improve UCSC student participation in EAP and sit *ex officio* on CIE. In our January consultation, CIE had a very productive conversation with AVP George, who suggested that this faculty director role could perhaps be focused on both EAP and Global Seminars in a hybrid fashion (seeing these two modalities as complements rather than competitors).

In our spring quarter consultations with Executive Director of Global Mobility (EDGM) Alice Michel and UCEAP Associate Dean Peter Graham, we further brainstormed how this position might boost student participation in study abroad. According to EDGM Michel, a campus faculty director could help her office in a variety of ways, including the promotion of academic integration grants (funded by EAP), faculty engagement on new exchange partnerships, and support for the development of new Global Seminars (including one-on-one meetings with professors who could benefit from more training in how to navigate student academic challenges abroad). According to UCEAP Graham, a faculty campus director can help with everything from identifying and overcoming bottlenecks that impede student participation in study abroad to promoting a campus culture that heightens student awareness of study abroad possibilities, including for transfer students who rarely participate in study abroad.

In August 2024, we learned from AVP George that, given current budget reductions, the position has been pared down to a focus primarily on international exchanges, both our bilateral portfolio of institutional exchanges and the UCEAP programs. Although our understanding as of the end of the year was that GE would work to identify suitable candidates for this restored but transformed faculty director position, over the summer we learned that Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Lori Kletzer would instead prefer the use of an open call to fill this position. CIE hopes that the new Faculty Director will be in place as early as possible in fall quarter 2024. CIE should be sure to follow up with GE on this important issue at the start of the 2024-25 academic year.

IV. Other Issues

CIE continued to advocate for the establishment of a campus international student center, though less vigorously than in past years, in part due to the consistent obstacles we have faced in promoting this issue, and because the committee decided to spend more of our energies on other pressing issues, including the international enrollment challenges discussed above. One issue to

keep an eye on next year, in light of continued efforts to implement the Leading the Change strategic plan, might be to continue to request that one of the student lounges that is called for in this plan be devoted to international students.

V. CIE Representation

In 2023-24, Chair Eaton served on the systemwide Senate UCIE committee, as well as on the review committees that selected participants for both the faculty Seminar Away Program to the UK that took place in April 2024 and the upcoming visit to Aarhus University in Denmark in September 2024. CIE members Marc Matera and Guido Bordignon participated in the UK visits to Queen's University Belfast and the University of Bristol. Chair Eaton also attended a Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) meeting to discuss GE's attempt to lift caps that have limited the potential growth of bilateral student exchange programs (which CEP has sought to keep in place due to concerns about possible negative impacts on graduation rates for our domestic students). In spring quarter, Chair Eaton attended a consultation between the Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) and AVC Whittingham to discuss ways to improve the campus's enrollment of international students.

VI. CIE Consultations

In addition to the consultations discussed above with AVCEM Whittingham (11/28/23), AVP George (1/30/24), EDGM Michel (5/7/24), and UCEAP Associate Dean Graham (6/4/24), CIE also consulted with Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies (VPDGS) Peter Biehl (2/27/24) and jointly consulted with VPDUE/GE Hughey and AVP George (10/31/23) on various topics related to international education. CIE Chair Eaton was also invited to consult with the Senate on topics related to CIE's purview.

VII. Local and System-wide Issue Review

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

- Global Engagement Faculty Seminar Away 2024 (November 2023)

VIII. Continuing Issues for CIE in 2024-25

There are several matters of continuing and emerging importance that will require CIE engagement and attention in the coming year(s).

- Monitor the potential impacts of our campus' budget deficit on international education and international student enrollment (including the use of waivers for Non-Resident Tuition for international graduate students), and the impacts of international student enrollment on our campus' budget deficit.
- Work with GE to boost participation in Global Seminars that have already been approved.
- Continue engaging with GE to improve the Global Seminar experience (e.g., make course expectations more explicit during recruitment and improve student orientation).
- Continue to encourage the recruitment of more international undergraduate applicants from a diversity of countries (e.g., via community outreach, third party recruiters, etc.) while

brainstorming ways to increase the numbers of international students who are enrolled at UCSC.

- Monitor the development of the Faculty Seminar Away program, including expected visits to our campus of faculty delegations from Queens University and the University of Bristol in fall 2024 and/or winter 2025, and our faculty visit to Aarhus University in Denmark in the fall.
- Onboard the new Campus Faculty EAP Director to help them understand the work of CIE, on which the faculty director will serve as *ex officio*.
- Monitor GE's planned pilot for Global Seminars held during the regular academic year.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

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