

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT**

To the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly:

The Subcommittee on International Education (SCIE) respectfully submits its report of activities for the 2020-21 academic year.

I. Committee Operations

Professor Victoria Bernal, Department of Anthropology in the School Social Sciences, chaired this academic year. SCIE is a joint subcommittee of the Council on Educational Policy (CEP) and the Graduate Council (GC). It met three times remotely via Zoom videoconference during the academic year and advised on issues concerning international education.

Chair Bernal also served as representative to the University Committee on International Education (UCIE), which oversees all academic aspects of the UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP), including the regular formal review of existing programs, the review and approval of new programs, changes in programs, and all program courses and credits. UCIE also provides advice to the UC President on the appointment of study abroad center directors.

Professor Rufus Edwards, Program in Public Health, served as Interim Chair and UCIE representative in Winter 2021.

Throughout the year, Victoria Jones, Associate Vice Chancellor of Global Engagement; William Clabby, Deputy Chief Global Affairs Officer; Jeanne d'Arc Gomis, Director of the Study Abroad Center; Anke Biendarra, Faculty Director of the Study Abroad Center; and representatives from the Graduate Division kept SCIE informed of international education-related initiatives and activities.

II. Campus and Divisional Issues

Study Abroad Center

- The Center continued to support students remotely with the same level of services provided prior to the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain student engagement.
- The Center explored opportunities for faculty-led programs that would offer an associated cultural component and experience in addition to the curriculum. In addition, the Center searched for alternative ways to host study abroad such as virtual global classrooms by connecting with partner institutions abroad.
- The Center restructured to better serve the campus needs. New staff positions include a global risk manager who is available 24/7 for calls, a lead outbound advisor, and a lead inbound and faculty-led program advisor.

Office of Global Engagement

- OGE continued to develop partnerships with international institutions. Faculty interested in joint programs are invited to contact OGE.
- OGE developed agreements between UCI School of Medicine and Korea University College of Medicine for their third annual joint symposium to be held virtually.
- At the start of the pandemic, UC policies discouraged domestic travel and prohibits international travel. Guest travel to UCI required advance authorization or risked not being reimbursed. Subsequently in April 2021, a new executive directive on travel was issued at [uci21-uci-travel-directive.pdf](#) recommending that non-essential travel be postponed. Faculty were encouraged to consult with OGE.

Needs of International Students during COVID-19 Pandemic

Since the start of COVID-19, UC study abroad programs came to an abrupt halt. Pandemic related issues will continue into 2021-22. How and when programs can resume remains the key topic at the campus and systemwide level. SCIE considered issues that international students were facing during the pandemic to support for example, students who were stranded abroad and could not return to the US, students who were stranded in the US and could not return to their home countries, and students who opted to remain at their study abroad locations. Students were urged to contact the UCI Study Abroad Center, UCI International Center, and UC Education Abroad Program for assistance and information on evolving US travel policies.

Academic Integration of International Education

COVID-19 represented an opportunity to reimagine study abroad by increasing awareness of the program to the campus community particularly to faculty. SCIE considered ways to encourage departments to include international education as an integral part of education in all disciplines. To support this effort, a list of campus and systemwide resources was compiled to promote study abroad and the general mission of internationalizing education at UCI. The list was distributed to Senate faculty in December 2020 and is accessible on the websites of SCIE, the Study Abroad Center, and the International Center.

III. Systemwide Issues

UC Education Abroad Program

- UCEAP shut down all international programs in Spring 2020. The move caused costly repatriation expenses. In May 2021, the Office of the President approved for UCEAP to restart selected programs in Fall 2021.
- UCEAP created virtual international internships available to sophomore, junior or senior students from all UC majors without language prerequisite. See <https://uceap.universityofcalifornia.edu/programs/virtual-international-internship>.

Recognizing Faculty's International Activities as Part of Merit, Tenure, and Promotion Process at UC

Over the course of 2019-20, UCIE considered the value of introducing well-defined mechanism for recognizing international activities and engagement by UC faculty as

part of the academic personnel process. UCIE requested that the item be presented for UCAP discussion. In response to UCIE's proposal, UCAP deemed that international activities should not be a category on its own.

Open Letter on Re-Centering Education Abroad Programs

An open letter dated April 22, 2021 was sent from a group of faculty to UCEAP, Academic Senate, and Executive Vice Chancellors on re-centering the education abroad program to UC teaching and research mission. The issue of education abroad being market driven rather than being advanced for its intellectual quality was raised. Because of UCEAP self-supporting status, the focus and content of education abroad have been shifted creating an ongoing source of tension between the campuses and UCEAP. Some faculty director positions have also been eliminated. In response, UCEAP addressed the issues raised and recognized its financial constraints.

IV. Committee Membership

Members:

Victoria Bernal, Social Sciences, SCIE Chair & UCIE Representative
Lukas Ligeti, Arts
Jose Ranz, Biological Sciences
Mingdi Xin, Business
Hosun Kang, Education (Fall 2020)
Shayan Doroudi, Education (Winter & Spring 2021)
William Tang, Engineering
Zuzana Bic, Health Sciences (Spring 2021)
Rufus Edwards, Health Sciences (Fall 2020 & Winter 2021), Interim SCIE Chair & UCIE Representative (Winter 2021)
Brianna Donaldson, Humanities
Lubomir Bic, Information and Computer Sciences
Jianming Bian, Physical Sciences
Jenny Rinehart, Social Ecology
Maura Allaire, CEP Representative
Liane Brouillette, CEP Representative
John Middlebrooks, GC Representative
Susan Turner, GC Representative

Ex Officios:

Anke Biendarra, Faculty Director, Study Abroad Center
Michael Dennin, Vice Provost, Teaching and Learning & Dean, Undergraduate Education
Gillian Hayes, Vice Provost, Graduate Education & Dean, Graduate Division
Victoria Jones, Chief Global Affairs Officer & Associate Vice Chancellor, Global Engagement

Consultants:

William Clabby, Deputy Chief Global Affairs Officer
Jeanne d'Arc Gomis, Director, Study Abroad Center
Gary Matkin, Dean, Continuing Education & Vice Provost, Career Pathways

ASUCI Representatives:

Jiaqi Zhou (Fall 2020)
Sabrina Rashid (Winter 2021)

Ellie Nagatomi (Spring 2021)
AGS Representative: Amy Shine
Council Analyst: Thao Nguyen