

Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Extended Learning

March 16, 2022, 3:15 pm –5:00 pm via Zoom

**Minutes**

**Present:** *Stephen Duarte, Yi Ding, Elizabeth Blakey, Debi Prasad Choudhary, Tim Watson, Pouyan Eslami, Susanna Eng-Ziskin, Mirna Sawyer, Gary Katz*

**Absent:** *Yannan Shen (excused), Li Liu (excused), Monica Garcia (excused),*

**Guests:** *Vanessa Andrade, Joyce Feucht-Haviar, Me'Laine Pemberton Hanna*

**Call to Order**

Yi Ding, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:16 pm. The meeting took place via Zoom.

**Approval of February 2022 Minutes**

*Yi Ding, Chair*

- I. Pouyan moved to approve. Susanna and Elizabeth seconded. All in favor. No objections or abstains. Motion has passed.

**Updates from the March Graduate Studies Committee meeting regarding proposed change to the Certificate Policy for Non-Credit Certificate Programs**

*Yi Ding, Chair*

- I. The revised policy was presented at the February GSC meeting and approved
- II. The approved policy is in the process of being submitted to the Faculty Senate
- III. Everything the same, just splitting the non-credit and credit policies– reducing the time from 100 credit hours to 18 credit hours
- IV. No questions from the committee

***Vanessa was attending the Annual Conference of the Association of International Education Administrators (<https://www.aieaworld.org/>) in New Orleans when Russia invaded Ukraine and the news of that reach those attending the conference. The conference was attended by international education professionals from around the world. Vanessa will share her experience being a part of the conversation among the gathered international educators as they learned about the invasion and considered its impact on international education globally. Vanessa will also share some reflections on how the regularly changing global context impacts international education nation to nation (including the changes in US policies).***

*Vanessa Andrade, Director, International Programs and Partnership Development & CSUN Deputy Senior International Officer*

- I. The Chair gave some background to inviting Vanessa Andrade to present to the Committee
- II. Joyce Feucht-Haviar introduced Vanessa Andrade, her work at and with CSUN.
- III. Vanessa Andrade started with a positive note:
  - a. Bringing back international students in a proactive way as a brand.
  - b. She is also on the board of directors for several international organizations. The US Commercial Office, StudyCalifornia, American International Recruitment Council, and a member of the DECSC.
  - c. The United States, as of July last year, the department of state, department of commerce and department of education were on the same page. Wrote a joint statement that allowed the United States to attract and retain talent.
  - d. Conference in person in New Orleans talking about collaboration and engagement.
    - i. When the war broke out, the first thought was for the concerns of the students, faculty, protection, Optional Practical training, etc.
  - e. Andrade gave background information of the Budget System for CSUN and spoke of the war's influence on the budget – economic instability and politics and fear of parents sending their students abroad, etc.
  - f. Some students will be here for OPT – Optional Practical Training
  - g. Other aspects to think about:
    - i. Financially how are we able to assist and support them
    - ii. How do we support them emotionally?
    - iii. Harmony between the students, no animosity, moving forward on a united front for collaboration and support to each other.
    - iv. Are they allowed to stay in the country legally? If OPT is about to expire?
  - h. TPS – Temporary Protection Status was assigned in early March from the Biden Administration to all Ukrainians in the United States.
  - i. Institutions in Russia that signed the agreement for the war were cut off. US governments took a more conservative approach in responding. Financial and other support is given from the Higher Education system.
  - j. Ukraine is also a hub for Education. It is the international students who are in the Ukraine. E.g., The Global aspect is bigger than what we see in the news.

#### Questions and Feedback:

Elizabeth Blakey asked, does Russian students have TPS status as well? Andrade answered, it is considered safe to return to Russia because it is not being attacked and that is why Russian students are not currently given TPS.

Feucht-Haviar asked about a change to the CSU policy. Andrade answered CSU announced and shared the Ukrainians, with TPS status, an ability to shift from international student additional pay to in-state tuition pay if they can show permanent status. It allows these students to have a payment plan as well.

Debi Prasad Choudhary asked, are there a policy drafted to protect students trying to leave the Ukraine. Andrade discussed the asylum process. The IIE organization is assisting with students.

The Chair asked, what other ways are there to support students in the degree programs? Andrade answered, the ISEC, and Marta Lopez and her team assist students in terms of resources. Also counseling services on campus at the Klotz Health Center to Russian and Ukrainian as well as all other students. The Committee could also reach out to Vanessa Andrade if needed.

The Chair shared a link in the chat from Laura Wembley created a link for assisting students.  
<https://libguides.csun.edu/ukraine/news>

Gary Katz asked if there were anti-Russian backlash and how to counteract that? Andrade answered it is a concern overall. Trying to make sure people understand in Russia there are protests against this war. Not all Russians are in support of this war. Share those images. We can't control reactions of people. If we see it, intervene to the best of our ability, and direct the person to a counseling center/department who has the capacity to help them. We all need to be attentive to this situation.

Blakey asked about MOU agreements with international partners or schools – How many and how long does it take to complete that process? Andrade answered perhaps 100 – 150 across campus, but the number fluctuates. There are also university collaborations and Educational Agreements like that for AUBH. How long it takes depends on the process? It depends on the pipeline of approvals/agreements in route for the SharePoint in the Chancellor's office. Sometimes if steps are missed, the process starts over from scratch. Legal approval, procurement, the Chancellor's office, and financial offices and other aspects that can take up to several years to complete.

Feucht-Haviar said a Friendship MOU is first opened, then if more needed, then a more advanced MOU could be created. Joyce spoke of the All Things International page:  
<https://www.csun.edu/tsengcollege/international/all-things-international>

Feucht-Haviar also stated that we should pay attention to faculty and staff of Russian and Ukrainian descent. Support is needed for them as well.

Ding asked the Committee if they have additional questions for Andrade. Andrade shared some information in the Chat: *War may be the enemy of education, but education is how we train independent-minded thinkers to cultivate peace* by Ani Kokobobo in The Chronicle Review.

The Chair gave a brief recap and asked for additional questions. The Chair reiterated resources for all affected by the war. Andrade thanked the committee for allowing her to be there.

The Chair asked for the Committee to share additional topics for the April meeting with her, Joyce Feucht-Haviar, and Me'Laine Pemberton Hanna.

Adjournment:

Having no other topics to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:02 pm.

*Prepared by Me'Laine Pemberton Hanna*