

## International Education Council (IEC)

### Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2021

12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

[Zoom](#)

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### Attendance

#### **Council Members:**

Ahmed Alwan (*University Library*); Vanessa Andrade (*DSIO*); Sandra Chong (*MDECE*); Jimmy Gandhi (*Chair, Tseng College*); Zach Helsper (*Intl Agreements Compliance*); Shay James (*Advisory Comm. Rep*); Santosh Khadka (*Humanities*); Kah Chun Lau (*CSM*); Joong-won Lee (*HHD*); Kunpeng Li (*DNCBE*); Aaron Lindberg (*A&R*); Marta Lopez (*International & Exchange Student Center Rep.*); Shadi Mahjoub (*CECS*); Natalie Mason-Kinsey (*CSUN Chief Diversity Officer*); Andrew Surmani (*MCCAMC*)

#### **Department Liaisons:**

Tracy Buenavista (*AAS*); Kimberly Embleton (*University Library*); Daniela Gerson (*Journalism*); Dick Heermance (*Geo Studies*); Maryam Jalalitabar (*Computer Sci*); Elli Kazemi (*Psych*); Uma Krishnan (*FCS*); Sonia Norris (*Theatre*); Carrie Pullen (*HS*); Rania Sabty (*EOH*); Maryam Tabibzadeh (*MSEM*); Anaïs Valiquette L'Heureux (*CJS*); Vickie Yu (*CDS*)

### Introductions

#### Update on Fall 2020 IEC Survey Discussion

Janet Oh (from Institutional Research) and her team are still in the process of putting together the Campus Survey Committee. Jimmy met with Vana Khachatourian in Janet's office. She suggested the appropriate timeframe to send the survey out would be around mid-October 2021, to ensure that we have the complete fall 2021 census data to give us the full list of students enrolled during that term. We will have two surveys – one for students and one for staff/faculty.

CSUN travel applications are currently closed through July 2021, and based on the current constraints in place for international travel, we will most likely not see international travel for students and faculty back to somewhat of a normal level until spring 2022 at the earliest.

#### Sub-Committee Selection for Survey Development

Jimmy asked for volunteers for the two survey development subcommittees. The two subcommittees will meet in March to early April to develop a draft of the proposed surveys and will present their drafts to the larger committee at the April 23 IEC meeting.

Marta Lopez requested a one to two sentence description for each of the subcommittees to help focus their work.

The subcommittee members are as follows:

#### **Faculty/Staff Survey Subcommittee**

Marta Lopez  
Jimmy Gandhi  
Maryam Tabibzadeh  
Sandra Chong

#### **Student Survey Subcommittee**

Marta Lopez  
Jimmy Gandhi  
Anaïs Valiquette L'Heureux  
Uma Krishnan

### **Discussion on Potential Topics to Survey Students/Faculty/Staff**

We have an opportunity for a broad survey so we can cover a good deal including curriculum, partnerships, faculty led programs, etc.

A few topics suggested by the group included:

- What types of international trips do you envision?
- What barriers/challenges (structural issues) do you face?
- How do interactions with international student populations lead to an attitudinal shifts/changing perspectives on people across cultures?
- How much are you willing to pay? Where would you like to go?
- What kind of internationalization would you like to see included in the curriculum?

Subcommittees should look at the ACE Comprehensive International Model and use these categories as a foundation.

### **Advice on Taking Students Abroad**

Maryam Jalalitar is new to the committee and asked to hear from faculty who have taken students abroad about best practices.

Kunpeng Li has taken CSUN students to China. The biggest challenge was getting everything approved, because it takes a long time and logistics are hard. Once you are abroad, it is hard to organize students in country and to ensure they follow the schedule. She further suggested having more adults to help in case someone gets sick on the trip. Kunpeng's trips with students have been non-credit business options and not a part of a class. Funding for the trips is highly subsidized by the business college.

Uma Krishnan suggested making sure you have good connections overseas and have enough faculty to help students.

Jimmy shared that his faculty-led travel was a part of a class as an optional international portion for credit.

Vanessa Andrade wanted to stress that if anyone is looking at third party providers, please make sure you do your research because many providers have had to change operations due to COVID and they may no longer have the capacity they once did. Third party providers do need an international MOU so the process will take longer and hence travel plans should be made a minimum of 9 months in advance.

### **Action Items:**

- Jimmy will work on creating a centralized list of funding resources for international programs. Zach offered to reach out to CSUN Travel to see where the list can be posted.
- Marta Lopez requested a one to two sentence description for each of the subcommittees to help focus their work.
- Bryanna will schedule the subcommittees to meet in March or early April.

### **Announcements**

- Career pathways program – February 22-March 5, 2021  
<https://www.international.ucla.edu/burkle/event/14884>

### **Topics for the Next Meeting**

- Subcommittee presentations on surveys

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will take place on Friday, April 23 from 2pm-3:30pm.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business to discuss, Jimmy Gandhi adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

*Minutes Prepared by Bryanna Benedetti-Coomber  
March 1, 2021*