

International Education Council (IEC)

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2020
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
Zoom

Attendance

Council Members: Ahmed Alwan (*Oviatt Library*), Vanessa Andrade (*Tseng College*), Sandra Chong (*CoE*), Daniel Degrauel (*DNCBE*), Matthew Des Lauriers (*CSBS*), S. Jimmy Gandhi (*Chair, Tseng College*), Zachary Helsper (*Intl. Agreements Compliance*), Drake Langford (*ACIP*), Joong-won Lee (*HHD*), Aaron Lindberg (*A&R*), Shadi Mahjoob (*CECS*), Natalie Mason-Kinsey (*CSUN Chief Diversity Officer*), Dean Sare (*Intl. Academic Advisement*)

Department Liaisons: Chhandak Basu (*Biology, CSM*), Efren Delgadillo Jr. (*Theatre, AMC*), Daniela Gerson (*Journalism, AMC*), Uma Krishnan (*Family & Consumer Sciences, HHD*), Andrew Surmani (*Music, MCCAMC*), Anais Valiquette L'Heureux (*Criminology & Justice Studies, CSBS*), Vickie Yu (*Communication Disorders & Science, HHD*)

Call to Order

Jimmy Gandhi, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

Welcome and Introductions

All participants introduced themselves. Jimmy posed the question to the group: How can we pivot our international practices to adapt to the changing times?

Recap/News Updates from the Last Meeting

3rd Party Provider Study Abroad Process

The 3rd Party Provider Process document has been finalized with a flowchart and corresponding documentation.

It is a 3-step process:

1. Proposal for faculty-led international trips
2. 3rd party provider vetting and approval
3. International agreement with approved 3rd party provider

Zach Helsper and others are working to get the first and second step built in to myCSUNglobe to further streamline the process. International agreements will still need

to follow the current process, which is not through myCSUNglobe. The process should be easy to access, three steps from the homepage.

This information will be disseminated to the deans, who will then share it with the associate deans and subsequently the department chairs. The information will also be passed on to all members of this committee, to be shared widely with fellow CSUN faculty.

International Travel

Zach Helsper shared that, in response to COVID-19, the State Dept. has raised all travel to Level 4, meaning that we are not allowing any international travel. There is no timeline to rescind travel restrictions, so no travel applications are being reviewed at this time.

Matthew Des Lauriers asked about planning for summer 2021. Zach suggested that, while no applications are currently being accepted, it does not hurt to plan ahead and have them ready when travel restrictions are lifted.

Vanessa Andrade shared that the Chancellor's Office is taking a week-by-week approach to reviewing IP programs as deadlines approach. Last week, all IP programs in the southern hemisphere were cancelled for fall 2020 due to the early deadline. Reciprocity exchange agreements have not been cancelled for fall 2020 at this point, but the decision will be made by mid-May to June 1.

Sharing some good news, many countries are beginning to reopen. Sweden and Denmark are opening up, so we may be able to accept these students, as long as they can get visas and are allowed to travel. China and Taiwan have visa appointments in the beginning of July. The key component is the parents' confidence about sending kids abroad.

CSUN is currently accepting applications from international students. However, this does not mean that they will be able to get visas or be able to travel due to travel restrictions. If we end up delivering our fall 2020 classes virtually rather than in person, we may lose most of our international students because online education is not as well accepted internationally.

Vanessa Andrade shared a link to University World News:
https://www.universityworldnews.com/page.php?page=UW_Main

Aaron Lindberg shared that we have less applications for undergraduates that we typically see, but we have more applications for graduate students, especially from India where Aaron has been recruiting for the past few years. We are offering admission deferrals for fall 2020, so international students who have already been accepted can come in spring 2021.

As of last Friday, CSUN housing plans to be open for only 600 students (from 3,500) because it will be one person per apartment for the fall. This is very limited but is still good news for international students who rely on campus housing.

Jimmy shared that more students may be taking a gap year due to the crisis, so we may see a lot less domestic and international students over the next year.

Jimmy posed the question: What does international travel look like during and after this pandemic? Will we have immunization passports, ultra-violet decontamination for bags, 4-hour wait times, empty planes, etc.? Interesting food for thought.

Daniel Degraevl asked about the policy regarding international conferences. Natalie Mason-Kinsey shared that the Chancellor's Office is discussing the possibility of extending the CSU travel ban (set to expire May 31) through the end of December. This would include all domestic and international travel across the CSU system. This decision has yet to be decided, but the Chancellor's Office will issue a statement by May 20. Vanessa Andrade pointed out that the Chancellor's Office is looking at guidance from the State Dept. and looking at hotspots to determine if travel would be safe. Jimmy Gandhi also pointed out that, from a risk management perspective, travel during this time would need a lot more approvals and would be lifted.

Updates from IEC Representatives and Liaisons

MataCare Emergency Grant: Natalie Mason-Kinsey shared that international students are eligible for the MataCare grant (not the federal CARES grant). Campus is waiting for the Chancellor's Office for the go-ahead, but CSUN is ready. CSUN has divided students into three categories: (1) Pell grant students, (2) financial aid, non-Pell grant students, and (3) students not qualified/did not apply for financial aid. All students are eligible and this money goes directly to students. Find out more at <https://www.csun.edu/financialaid/matacare-emergency-grant>

IESC is hosting virtual coffee hours over Zoom every Friday from 2pm-4pm. To join, log onto Zoom and enter meeting ID 119-141-228 or contact Marta Lopez (marta.lopez@csun.edu) for more information.

SAC Program, fall 2020: As of now, CSUN is accepting applications for the SAC program, but like our matriculated international students, it depends on the ability to visas and flights to Los Angeles. If we end up having virtual instruction in fall 2020 we may lose students, but if there is a way to have a hybrid structure or some in person instruction they may stay. We actually have more students interested in studying in California because of how we have handled the COVID-19 situation compared to other states.

Uma Krishnan shared that, in fall 2020, there may be a combination of virtual and in person classes. CSUN may have labs in person with less students, and ask vulnerable populations staying home.

CSUN's IPP Facebook page is updated regularly with chat hours, webinars, and other important information for international students. Please share this widely. @CSUNIPP or https://www.facebook.com/CSUNIPP/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&id=ARBh1OhnlLwTyEUdsTMbBeErBVpmTbHYtY6M0AUo1TjQYq-BdugYzdh-Mry0d7Mz909jmTYCMo99jpDX

Dean Sare asked how we could make sure continuing international students are notified that they can register for summer courses before they fill up. The email for summer course registration went out late this year because the administration was trying to decide whether to run summer as state-support or self-support, but all students should have received the email. All summer classes are self-support except for a few classes supported by one-time funding from the Chancellor's Office for a small number of classes and students that will be hand selected and invited to join by Elizabeth Adams.

ACE Model for Comprehensive Internationalization

Jimmy introduced the discussion, asking the questions "What is internationalization for CSUN? How do we make it a collaborative effort?" Jimmy suggested going through each column listed below and doing a status check to see where CSUN has strengths and weaknesses, and then lay out a plan for improvement. Daniel Degraevl suggested the creation of a subcommittee for this purpose.



<https://www.acenet.edu/Research-Insights/Pages/Internationalization/CIGE-Model-for-Comprehensive-Internationalization.aspx>

Survey for Study Abroad Programs

Jimmy suggested the need for a survey of CSUN students regarding study abroad programs and resources. Some of the questions to be covered may include the following: Would students be willing to go? How much are they willing to pay? What resources do they need? What experiences are they looking for? Specific locations?

The survey would be conducted using Qualtrics.

Natalie Mason-Kinsey suggested contacting the CSUN survey committee early to let them know of our intentions and to get on the calendar, as there are many surveys that are sent throughout the year. Spring has more surveys, so it would be better to send one in the fall.

Drake Langford noted that CSUIP may already have surveys and suggested contacting them to get an idea of system-wide trends.

Dean Sare suggested offering the survey to students who have between 15-85 units and offering the survey near October 1 when students and faculty know more about how we will be offering instruction.

Daniel Degrauel said that the survey is a good idea to see what students perceive about internationalization. We should survey faculty about how they feel about it too. However, we should not do the survey now because COVID is a bump in the road and the results may not represent how students and faculty feel in a year or two. We should wait until we have a vaccine to see how people feel about travelling abroad when it is safer to do so. The cost benefit analysis shifts with crisis.

Survey population: Jimmy had suggested a survey to the entire student body. Natalie brought up the question: Why do we need to survey the entire student body, rather than just a sample of the population?

Zach Helsper suggested segmenting the population to avoid skewing results. For example, senior and juniors may have already gone on study abroad or may feel like it is too late, while incoming students may still be interested in going abroad. The survey can ask the latter group what they would be interested in, while it can ask the former group what they liked about the offerings they had when making their choice. Zach volunteered to be a part of the group that works on the creation of the survey.

Matthew Des Lauriers proposed that the survey also be divided by discipline because some disciplines will not do study abroad, and many may need to take a year off because they need the ability to travel freely (such as archeology).

CSUN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT RESOURCES TO SHARE

Please share widely with international students

Matacare Emergency Grant (international students eligible):

<https://www.csun.edu/financialaid/matacare-emergency-grant>

IESC virtual coffee hours over Zoom, every Friday from 2pm-4pm.

To join, log onto [Zoom](#) and enter meeting **ID 119-141-228** or contact Marta Lopez (marta.lopez@csun.edu) for more information.

CSUN's IPP Facebook page

Search **@CSUNIPP** or click [here](#) to be directed to Facebook

Topics for the Next Meeting

- Subcommittee for status check on ACE Model for Comprehensive Internationalization
- Survey for CSUN Study abroad programs

Next Meeting

Our fall 2020 meetings will be scheduled in at the beginning of the fall semester.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, Jimmy Gandhi adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

*Minutes Prepared by Bryanna Benedetti-Coomber
April 27, 2020*