

# International Education Council (IEC)

## Meeting Minutes

October 26, 2020

1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Zoom

---

### Attendance

#### **Council Members:**

Ahmed Alwan (*Oviatt Library*); Vanessa Andrade (*Tseng College, DSIO*); Sandra Chong (*MDECE*); Jimmy Gandhi (*Chair, Tseng College*); Zachary Helsper (*CSUN International Agreement Compliance Coord.*); Drake Langford (*CSU ACIP*); Joon-won Lee (*HHD*); Kunpeng Li (*DNCBE*); Marta Lopez (*International & Exchange Student Center Rep.*); Shadi Majoob (*CECS*); Natalie Mason-Kinsey (*CSUN Chief Diversity Officer*); Rudri Oza (*International Student Rep.*); Dean Sare (*CSUN Advisory Community Rep*); Andrew Surmani (*MCCAMC*)

#### **Department Liaisons:**

Sanchayeeta Adhikari (*Geography*); Chhandak Basu (*Bio*); Tracy Buenavista (*AAS*); Rachel Giraud (*Anthro*); Dick Heermance (*Geo Studies*); Maryam Jalalitar (*Comp.Sci.*); Uma Krishnan (*FCS*); Joel Lemuel (*Comm. Studies*); Jing Li (*Math*); Ricardo Medina (*CECM*); Rika Meyer (*CAD*); Sonia Norris (*Theatre*); Carrie Pullen (*HS*); Alberto Restori (*EPC*); Rania Sabty (*EOH*); Khanum Shaikh (*GWS*); Maryam Tabibzadeh (*MSEM*); Anais Valiquette L'Heureux (*CJS*); Na Wen (*DNCBE*); Vickie Yu (*CDS*)

### Call to Order

Jimmy Gandhi, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. The meeting was held virtually via Zoom.

### Welcome and Introductions

Jimmy shared the charge of the IEC with the group.

IEC Charge: The purpose of the California State University, Northridge University International Education Council (IEC) is to provide university-wide consideration of the academic value of proposed international relationship/initiative brought before the Council in light the Priority Outcomes and Academic Values Guiding CSUN International Programs, Services and Relationships.

Key charges of the IEC include the following:

- Identify and profile the university's strengths, distinctiveness, and areas for development in education, research activities and creative programs that are globally focused
- Monitor trends in globalization of higher education and their applicability to continuous improvement at CSUN

- Make recommendations to the International Coordinating Council (ICC) to advance the university's global education, research and innovations agenda
- Endeavor to assist faculty seeking to globalize their academic interests
- Useful to think about the above and they have changed during the current pandemic

Meeting details: The IEC meets twice per semester, typically in October, December, March, and April.

Other Business Details:

- IEC representatives communicate with their colleges / units they represent about CSUN's international relationships and initiatives
- It is the responsibility of the IEC representatives to regularly report to the IEC their colleges work in this area
  - For this, the representatives should be in touch with the department liaisons to know what is happening at the department level
- The committee member comprise of 9 representatives from each college/library, 1 representative from the CSUN International and Exchange Student Center, 1 representative from Admissions and Records, 1 international student, 1 representative from CSU ACIP, CSUN's Chief Diversity Officer, 1 representative from CSUN's advisory community, and 1 representative from any CSUN Center or Institute that has a primarily international charge.

All participants introduced themselves and shared about their experience and interest in international education.

**Discussion**

**Current International Education Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Jimmy opened the discussion by sharing an article published in "The Pie News" on October 19, 2020: [Skills acquired during study abroad linked to US leadership positions](#). The article argues that skills developed during study abroad are essential for US management and leadership positions. The link to the article will be emailed to the group alongside the minutes.

**What international work is currently being done at CSUN, despite setbacks due to COVID-19?**

Marta Lopez shared that her team is participating in a lot of study abroad fairs and events, and that they are seeing a lot of interest from students for future experiences.

Khanum Shaikh is currently co-teaching a class on Feminist Theories with Tokyo University of Foreign Studies virtually.

Vanessa Andrade is engaged in a lot of networking and collaboration, and is seeing an increase in the use of social media to keep internationalization alive during this pandemic.

Jimmy Gandhi has continued his collaboration with THI University in Germany for his Supply Chain Class, scheduling times on the syllabus to co-teach virtually, with the faculty at the partner university in Germany.

### Recap from Spring 2020 Meetings

Last spring, the committee focused on the question “What is “internationalization” at CSUN?” We discussed creating a subcommittee to look at internalization models for CSUN to look at our strengths and areas of improvement, and then lay out a plan for improvement.

The committee also suggested creating a survey for CSUN students regarding study abroad programs and resources. Due to COVID-19, we have decided to wait on this survey until at least the end of Spring 2021, possibly Fall 2021.

### Internationalization Models

The subcommittee did meet over summer and in the beginning of fall. The subcommittee members collected over 40 articles and compiled a literature review related to internationalization. The members then narrowed the articles down to approximately 19, reviewed these articles, and picked the two most relevant models for our purposes.

Model I: The “Spider Web” Model Offered by Graham Elkin, John Farnsworth and Andrew Templer from University of Otago, New Zealand, this model maps out where the campus is currently positioned compared to the ideal position in internationalization.



Modal II: ACE Model for Comprehensive Internationalization This model takes a comprehensive approach to internationalization by breaking it down in to six categories and further subcategories (see link for more details)



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

The subcommittee has decided to use the second model to frame our discussion. We would like to take the categories and examine which areas we excel in and where improvements can be made.

### Survey

The committee suggested that a survey be sent internally only to the IEC members first, to learn more about CSUN's current internationalization and where we see our strengths and weaknesses.

Once the internal survey is complete, we will use the responses to develop a survey for the campus to get the voice of the stakeholders (faculty, students and staff) heard.

### Action Items

1. Jimmy will reach out to Carrie Pullen and Sandra Chong for separate meetings to discuss individual questions.
2. The subcommittee will reconvene to create a standard survey to send to the IEC Committee to help collect data. The subcommittee will meet in the next few weeks and send the survey out by Nov. 13, due Nov. 20. The data collected will be presented at the December IEC meeting

### Announcements:

- The AIEA Annual Conference 2021 is virtual and will be held Feb 15-17, 2021: <https://www.aieaworld.org/2021-aiea-annual-conference>

- The Pie News is a great publication of international education news from the field. You can subscribe for free to receive weekly emails with updates and articles. They also have a wonderful podcast with global views from the field: <https://thepienews.com/>

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

- Focus on chosen internationalization model
- Look at internal survey responses from IEC members and discuss next steps for CSUN study abroad program survey

### **Next Meeting**

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2020 at 1pm via Zoom.

### **Adjournment**

Having no further business to discuss, Jimmy Gandhi adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

*Minutes Prepared by Bryanna Benedetti-Coomber  
November 9, 2020*