

## The International Advisory Committee at UC Davis

### Overview:

The Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor hereby establishes an International Advisory Committee (IAC) whose primary goal is to recommend an overarching strategy for international engagement that will best serve the excellence and mission of UC Davis.

### Rationale:

UC Davis is a premier research university with a “global impact,” as our *Vision of Excellence* proclaims, but there is broad consensus that our international efforts could be both more extensive and better coordinated. A rich international program will contribute to all aspects of the University’s mission even as it enhances our reputation at home and abroad.

UC Davis already enjoys active relationships with global partners and provides international educational experiences for many students. Faculty collaborate with colleagues around the world. UC Davis is one of the top five U.S. campuses in the number of international scholars visiting in a given year. Increasing numbers of students from abroad seek to study here, and this will certainly increase as we intensify our international marketing and recruiting efforts.

As we prepare to undertake such steps and to commit the resources required to be successful, we must articulate our goals clearly, but that is only part of what is needed. It is time for a thorough stocktaking of our international assets and, even more importantly, the development of a clear vision of our aspirations in the global arena. We need a comprehensive strategy for international engagement.

As a community, we must discern our rightful place in a world that is ever “flatter,” to adopt the term Thomas Friedman made current. Do the various components of our mission—teaching, research, service—need refining and reframing given the international circulation and integration of knowledge? How can we bring the benefits of global networking to our campus, the region and the state? While our primary obligations remain always to the people of California, California’s own sense of its place in the world demands that we ask ourselves how we might bring the values of UC Davis and its contributions in every field to a world with problems that need solving. Does a component of our historic mission—to educate the top tier of California’s undergraduates—not demand, in today’s world, that they have significant exposure to international peers in Davis and an experience abroad?

Many offices in our University are enjoying the benefits or grappling with the challenges of internationalization—quite often both at once. Virtually every campus unit will at some point have hosted an international student or scholar. Many of our academic units study one or more of the thousands of cultures found around the world, and most will have had students or faculty travel outside the country for some phase of their educational experience.

While many units offer services in support of international exchange (in the broadest sense of the term) or programming in one form or another (e.g., various academic units, the Office of Research, University Relations, UC Davis Extension), and while many departments and programs work to enhance skills in languages other than English (and, in English, for students, international and domestic, who come to us from contexts where a language other than English is the primary mode of communication), we have looked to University Outreach and International Programs (UOIP) in the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor to provide a measure of campuswide coordination and to assemble under one roof functions that are key to advancing the internationalization of the campus.

Based on the information provided on its Web page (<http://uoip.ucdavis.edu/>), the mission of UOIP is to provide core academic leadership and coordination for UC Davis faculty, scholars, and students—including international students and scholars—as well as staff and alumni in two major scholarship functions:

- International research, educational, and academic outreach activities and programs (including the UC Education Abroad Program, UC Davis Quarter Abroad Program, UC Davis Summer Abroad Program, and the Humber H. Humphrey Fellowship Program)
- Academic outreach and engagement with the broader society

In addition, UOIP engages in a number of programs and activities that enhance faculty and student research, education, and outreach, including:

- Faculty funding workshops/funding opportunities Web pages/faculty database
- Fulbright Scholar Programs
- Development of international institutional linkages (i.e., universities, government agencies) and international professional organizations (i.e., the Association of International Education Administrators [AIEA], Association of Pacific Rim Universities [APRU], and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities [APLU])
- Newsletters, Web pages, and other communications materials
- Hosting of senior international delegations

- International Agreements of Cooperation
- International alumni relations
- International fundraising/development

This is an impressive suite of programs, and it is important to acknowledge the major role of this office—thanks in large part to the dedication of Vice Provost William Lacy and his tireless and enthusiastic staff—in our success in bringing students and scholars from other nations to Davis and in helping many UC Davis students have an international educational experience, some via the UC-wide EAP program, some via innovative Davis-based programs created and taught by UC Davis faculty.

The major questions before us are these: How do we build on our success and take international engagement to the next level? How will “internationalization” find its unique expression at UC Davis, and what will it look like? An international experience is becoming an absolutely critical component of the education of students who will be asked to compete in a global market and to be citizens of an increasingly globalized world. How quickly could we reach the point where we can realistically expect virtually every graduate of UC Davis to have had an international experience of some sort during his or her time here, as the Chancellor has suggested?

**Charge:**

The charge of the International Advisory Committee is threefold:

1. Inventory the entire range of programs and initiatives the campus currently mounts to foster international engagement, noting the aims of each and making a general assessment of their effectiveness.
2. Articulate an overarching international engagement strategy.
3. Suggest how the campus might best deploy resources to advance this engagement strategy.

The composition of the IAC—including faculty, administrators, staff, students, and one or more additional stakeholders—will help to ensure that all important perspectives are employed in the committee’s work.

## Activities and methodologies:

### *IAC conducts campuswide assessment*

- The International Advisory Committee will acquaint itself with the multiple programs and initiatives we currently mount that foster and support international engagement, international students and scholars here, and our students and scholars abroad. The IAC will collect all available evidence regarding the effectiveness of these individual programs and to offer general assessments; the Committee is not, however, being charged to do a formal review of any single program or office.
- The Budget and Institutional Analysis Office will provide to IAC members staff support and detailed background information and analysis.

### *IAC consults intra- and extramurally to develop an overarching strategy*

- Concurrent with the assessment described above, the IAC, consulting broadly on campus and selectively with off-campus sources, will develop and articulate an overarching international engagement strategy. The Provost will work with the IAC directly in this phase, and will both encourage and enable the IAC to have access to information about good practices in other universities. To that end, working with the IAC, the Provost will invite two to three experienced professionals in appropriate positions to visit us, possibly as a panel, possibly serially during the working period of the IAC. These individuals might speak not only to the panel but also publicly from their experience about successful models of “internationalization,” at their own institutions or elsewhere, and about their vision of what a research university such as UC Davis should be doing to be excellent on a global scale and via international engagement.

### *IAC makes recommendations in a final report to the Provost, the Chancellor, and the community*

- After the assessment and consultation activities are concluded, the IAC will make recommendations to the Provost concerning the optimal deployment of resources to advance the international engagement strategy it will have developed. This can involve suggestions for reorganization of current operations and may well recommend a different level of investment. (If that investment is to be greater, the IAC will suggest a source or sources for such new resources.) The aim is not merely to recommend changes in how we support what we are doing now. Rather, the charge of the IAC is, after looking at best practices and taking a very broad view of global developments and “internationalization,” to recommend how as a campus we can fully realize our

potential in the international arena. We need to know what “state of the art” is, and we need then to embody it, but we need also to look even further out: we must have a clear vision of what it will mean for UC Davis to take a leadership position as an international campus and then organize ourselves to pursue that goal with determination and discipline. Finally, the Provost will share the final report with the Chancellor and the entire community.

### **Timeline:**

May 2011: Establishment of IAC

December 2011: Campuswide assessment and consultation phases are concluded

January 2012: IAC submits its final report to the Provost, who in turn submits it to the Chancellor and makes it available to the larger community

### **Membership:**

The following individuals were selected to serve on the IAC by the Provost:

Dr. Ruth Uy Asmundson, *City of Davis Mayor Emerita*

Ms. Sharada Balachandran-Orihuela, *Doctoral Candidate, Department of English*

Leopoldo Bernucci, *Professor, Department of Spanish and Classics*

Lora Jo Bossio, *Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs*

Fadi Fathallah, *Professor, Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering*

Jacquelyn Gervay Hague, *Professor, Department of Chemistry*

Dr. Douglas Gross, *Senior Lecturer, Department of Cell Biology and Human Anatomy*

James Hill, *Associate Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences*

Charles (Chip) Leshner, *Professor, Department of Geology*

Winston Ko, *Dean, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences*

Jeannette Money, *Associate Professor, Department of Political Science (co-chair)*

Vallerye Mosquera, *Doctoral Candidate, Department of Human and Community Development*

Rajiv Narayan, *ASUCD*

Christopher Reynolds, *Professor, Department of Music*

Cary Trexler, *Associate Professor, School of Education and College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (co-chair)*

Charles Walker, *Professor, Department of History*

Li Zhang, *Professor, Department of Anthropology*

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*Office of the Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor  
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