

UIC Global Steering Committee
Minutes
July 17, 2019

Attendees

UIC Steering Committee (SC) Members: Susan Poser, Janet Parker and Neal McCrillis. UIC guests: Don Wink and Kevin Schultz.

Shorelight Steering Committee (SC) Members: Bill Colvin, Jim Sheehan (remote) and Dan Grace (remote). UIC Global guests: Kali Heifetz and Marshall Houserman

Previous Business

Heifetz started with a request to vote on last SC meeting minutes. Poser moved and Parker seconded the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Enrollment Projections

Fall 2019 Enrollment: Heifetz stated the incoming cohort will be slightly smaller or the same as last year. Poser stated she would like to see the cohorts compared year by year to see the trends. Heifetz asked how often these reports were expected. Poser asked for reports at each SC quarterly meeting.

Net 12

Heifetz stated that she and McCrillis wanted to see the Net 12 percentages at the time of admission and at time of progression. Heifetz stated that they do not have the proper data to create the progression report but they will be working on this for the future. Parker stated that her data shows the discount is 27% of progressed students, which is far above the target.

Colvin stated that there are two challenges. Too few Pre-Sessional (PSE) students are making it into the accelerator. In addition, fewer than the hoped for number of accelerator students are progressing in degree programs. Colvin noted there is 30% attrition from PSE to accelerator.

Heifetz stated she and McCrillis agreed that progressed students should maintain a 3.0 GPA to keep the scholarship as is stated in the 2018 Diversity Scholarship Guidelines. Parker asked if this information is in scholarship letter. Houserman stated it is. Parker asked why GPA is not being reviewed. Houserman stated there is no mechanism. Wink also noted that there are questions about when the review should take place and by whom. Parker stated that Financial Aid should conduct review and Poser agreed. Poser stated that UIC needs a list of students to review. Colvin stated that lists are being sent.

Heifetz stated the need for additional data to address any Net12 problems related to progression. McCrillis suggested GPAs be checked one semester after a student progressed into an academic program. Poser suggested the GPA should be reviewed annually.

Heifetz pointed out that although diversity scholarships have not been provided to students from countries already overrepresented at UIC, recruitment is going well. Wink stated that there are still over

170 students admitted from South Asia this year. Heifetz expressed hope that students from India who do not have the scholarship will progress into UIC academic programs.

Heifetz stated McCrillis asked for a more detailed analysis of Fall 2019 Graduate Direct applications on a program by program basis to determine if there are particularly high rates of rejection. McCrillis stated that it is possible during implementation there was some misunderstanding or misalignment between programs' expectations and the recruitment pipeline from Shorelight to UIC Global. It is also possible programs had more of their own sourced applications and were forced to be more selective with these (later) UIC Global applications. He will be asking the Graduate Subcommittee to discuss the analysis before talking with any departments.

Colvin suggested the high rejection rate (47% overall) is not sustainable and encouraged us to remove any obstacles or misalignments. McCrillis agreed and stated he wants the whole recruitment to admission process to be efficient so everyone is moving the right kind of applicants through to programs. At this point he is not sure why the rejection rate with some programs was so high.

AQA Subcommittee Recommendation

Wink explained a K8 placement guidance document was developed in 2016 but was not flushed out in detail. The AQA Subcommittee has reviewed and reworked the document over several months to provide consistent and more detailed policies and procedures. There are four placement tests covered by the K8. As outlined in the handouts these include math, chemistry, English and English language. Wink stated that all subcommittee members believe the revised K8 provides much more clarity to all departments involved.

The AQA endorses the revised K8 placement policy and workflow document for consideration by the Steering Committee. All members of the AQA voted to endorse this policy.

McCrillis stated this is great work to clarify and provide consistency for all students. Poser agreed. McCrillis stated TIE is happy to see this and to have full access to all of the English language scores. Wink stated Trischa Duke, UIC Global Curriculum Coordinator in Tutorium, had a lot of input in the revisions.

Colvin asked that students arriving at UIC be given 48-72 hours to recover before being given a language placement test. Houserman stated that placement tests are available prior to arrival and are required for late-arrivals. McCrillis supported a 48-hour minimum wait time except with late arrivals and asked Wink to consider including it. Wink accepted the amendment.

McCrillis moved to approve the AQA recommendation with the friendly amendment accepted by Wink. Colvin seconded. All voted in favor.

TIE Curriculum Coordinator Position Report & Funding Renewal

Heifetz stated that SC agreed to review the TIE Curriculum Coordinator role at each July meeting. Handouts include the annual report from Trischa Duke and an updated job description.

Colvin stated he would like to add into the position expectations for reporting on retention and progression data. Heifetz stated there are some reports from TIE on student grades and absences but believed TIE's move into Banner and collaborating with OIR will provide better reporting. Colvin agreed but stated that the Curriculum Coordinator is critical to providing the data.

Parker asked whether the \$10,000 in funding is based on a UIC match since TIE is expected to be self-sustaining. McCrillis stated that there was no expectation of funding from UIC at this time. He believed that the initiative to develop a system for measuring and reporting retention, progression and graduation (RPG) would address Colvin's concern.

McCrillis did not consider it appropriate to place the responsibility upon the TIE Curriculum Coordinator, especially given that the funding covers less than 20% of the position's salary. Colvin agreed but wanted accountability since the assessment issue has been discussed in a number of SCs. Perhaps if the RPG initiative has not worked by October, then the role of the Coordinator in this matter could be reconsidered. McCrillis agreed. Wink pointed out the responsibility might be shared in TIE and as determined by the director.

Motion is to renew the \$10,000 in UIC Global funding for the Tie Curriculum Coordinator position. McCrillis requested a vote. All voted in favor.

Academic Chair

McCrillis stated that Wink would be leaving his role as Academic Chair on August 15. He thanked Wink for his dedicated work, particularly during the first year when he was instrumental in creating the program with guidance and no UIC Global staff. Parker stated that Wink was a great choice in 2016. Colvin stated that Wink's role is the model amongst the partnerships with which he works.

McCrillis stated that there had been a call for Academic Chair applications from UIC faculty members who are tenured and, preferably, full professors. A search committee including UIC Global, OGE and college representatives screened the applicants and unanimously recommended Kevin Schultz. McCrillis concurred with their recommendation.

McCrillis asked Schultz to say a few words about his interests. Schultz stated that during the past couple years he has worked as a liaison with UIC Global and was impressed with what has been created. Schultz stated that Wink is the gold standard which he will strive to attain. He was delighted to be selected for the position. Schultz been interested in international work at UIC for many years, including leadership of the UIC American Studies Institute which trained teachers from abroad. Schultz has been delighted to work with UIC Global since its inception and in creating the History 199 course. He looked forward to supporting the UIC Global Graduate Direct program. Among his goals are diversification of the international student population and working with departments to ensure students are integrated. UIC Global is a global extension UIC's civic mission.

Poser moved that Schultz be approved as the new Academic Chair. McCrillis seconded. All voted in favor.

UIC Global Graduate Accelerator

McCrillis stated that the June Deans Council meeting, Wink and others outlined again the UIC Global Graduate Accelerator Program, and Poser asked if any deans wished to proceed with it. No deans indicated a desire to move forward at this time. Wink stated that he believed many want to see how the Graduate Direct works before considering anything else. Deans' concerns include the potential for an excessive number of applications and programs' lack of control over selection of individual applicants.

Colvin asked for more information about concerns regarding the objective criteria for admission. McCrillis stated this is one issue as is the removal of programs' from final decision-making. Wink stated that the department review is a very attractive feature for Graduate Direct. Colvin wondered if we could try a subjective process similar to limited standing. Departments could then place students in an accelerator program. This would allow us greater flexibility to admit students.

Poser stated the problem is not just about control. She indicated that the Graduate Accelerator model does not match how UIC handles graduate admissions. Program decision-making in admissions is especially important in a Research I university. McCrillis also noted that programs review master's applications in light of their PhD. admissions. Poser added that as a public university UIC is obligated to provide as much access to Illinois residents rather than out-of-state or international students.

Wink stated that some faculty are worried about having to change their courses to enable accelerator students to succeed. They are not sure how to do this or if they have the capacity to do so.

Poser stated UIC implemented Graduate Direct as a better alternative to the accelerator. Colvin stated the two programs have always gone together. In addition, he stated they are willing to look at a subjective review process for accelerator.

Poser suggested they table this item and review the information about rejections in the Graduate Direct program at the fall meeting. Again, however, Poser stated that deans do not want to deviate from their procedures for graduate admissions. No deans indicated a willingness to adopt the accelerator. Moreover, Engineering, the most popular college, has capacity issues. Colvin agreed.

Retention, Progression and Graduation Assessment Working Group

McCrillis stated that a working group has been formed and already met. They will be using UIC Banner-based data to determine students' retention, progression into academic programs and graduation. Colvin asked what is the timeline. McCrillis stated the next working group meeting will be in 2 weeks, and the plan is to have a preliminary report for the next SC. Heifetz stated that she, Sandy and Jason Romano would also be reviewing TIE data.

UIC Global Graduate Subcommittee UIC Co-Chair

McCrillis stated that Steve Kragon retired on 30 June. The Dean of Graduate College indicated that Araceli Aguirre should fill the position on an interim basis at least until Kragon's position is filled.

Differentiating TIE Cohorts of UIC Global Students

Heifetz stated there are hitherto unknown nuances in the contract differentiating PSE students from lower English proficiency students or “ESL Students.” Due to a misunderstanding, all of these students had been considered PSE.

The financial arrangements for PSE and ESL cohorts differ as outlined in the handout. Heifetz stated that there would be two student attributes for ESL students and two for PSE students. This will allow Banner to differentiate between regular and mid-term entry students for PSE and ESL. Parker requested that the attributes be added to the handout describing TIE instruction for UIC Global.

Looking at previous students, Heifetz stated they have provided TIE with lists of students who were ESL not PSE. TIE will review and audit this list. Parker asked if the specific courses would be attached to the students. McCrillis noted that the actual classes (as opposed to non-specific placeholders) offered by TIE were only approved by the Faculty Senate and added to Banner in late spring. Colvin stated the differentiation of PSE and ESL and tracking through Banner might improve assessment and enable TIE to revise the curriculum to improve retention and progression.

Schultz asked how much of the work for TIE is for UIC Global students. McCrillis stated over 90 percent of teaching contact hours in TIE are for UIC Global.

McCrillis asked who would update it the TIE Cohort List. Heifetz stated she would be responsible for updating. Parker asked that Alicia Behr in her office also be provided the information to assist with the audit.

Strategies to Support & Advocate for the Partnership at UIC

All members agree that this item should be a standing SC topic. Heifetz stated that there is a sense of frustration amongst her leadership team on how UIC Global is being seen on campus. Heifetz asked for ideas for educating the UIC community about UIC Global and its benefits. Wink stated that we need to tell the story, and that is told directly through students. Unfortunately, students of concern and problems often stand out more than success. Wink suggested bringing excellent students to meetings with various colleges. Heifetz stated that once we have data from the RPG working group that it will be easier to tell the UIC Global story on campus. Colvin stated that the SC should advocate for the partnership. In other partnerships there are often handouts with student data for campus stakeholders.

Meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.