

Agenda item 3: Next UMAP IS Host Country/territory (2021-2023: 5 Years)

Next UMAP IS Host Country/Territory (2021-2025: 5 Years)

*Dear National Secretariat,*

*Please read through the messages below and kindly give us your feedback regarding items 1 to 4 which are highlighted in green by May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020.*

*This message was proposed by the British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), Canada National Secretariat (NS), to provide an update about the possibility of their serving as International Secretariat (IS) of UMAP beginning in 2021. Because there is no promised country/territory that can become IS at this moment, the current UMAP IS is also sharing some ideas and soliciting the opinions of board members.*

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Context

In light of the current global COVID19 crisis, international student mobility and exchange have been fundamentally altered and diminished. Institutions and programs are still trying to bring stranded students home, and almost all have temporarily suspended sending any further students abroad, as well as limited incoming students from abroad due to shelter-in-place, quarantine or travel restrictions.

It is not yet clear when normal classroom instruction will begin, or if institutions will move to a hybrid form or online delivery over the medium-to-long term. It is also not clear when routine travel will resume even in the business or tourism realms, let alone for organized student mobility. Institution and association budgets have been dramatically impacted to an as yet unknown degree, and new budgets will necessarily envisage staffing cutbacks across the sector.

We do not yet know when or how any degree of normalcy will return to the field of international student mobility, and when associations, institutions, parents or students will even allow students to travel again.

We all of course hope for a return to normalcy as soon as possible. Even in the best case scenarios, it will not be until sometime in 2021, perhaps longer, before we again experience a critical mass of students able to travel.

In terms of UMAP, this also finds us in a period of transition as we search for a new International Secretariat (IS) that can take over the role in early 2021. Toyo University has generously agreed to assist in the transition to the new IS until March of 2021, and to maintain some ongoing oversight of the UMAP database moving forward.

Canada has been extremely interested in taking on the role of IS, but is reliant on federal funds to support such a decision. The federal Canadian International Education Strategy (IES), which BCCIE was hoping would fund the UMAP IS in Canada, has been indefinitely put on hold. As

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such, this document is to seek clarification of the Board's thinking of specific issues around the IS role rather than a commitment from Canada to take on the IS role. The British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), the existing NS for Canada, is still unable to formally commit to assuming the IS role, but it is engaged in ongoing discussions with the BCCIE board, the BC parent Ministry, and the federal associations overseeing Canada's IES.

Under this situation, Chair country and International Secretariat also discussed a number of key decisions would need to be made by UMAP to advance even consideration of this opportunity:

- Could scholarship funding for incoming or outgoing students be cut back or eliminated?
- Would it be acceptable for the amounts of funding and attention given to conference exhibitions and promotion to be examined and rationalized?
- Could promotional materials be made virtual rather than printed and shipped?

#### Options and Recommendations

With the understanding that certain activities are ongoing, it is not currently possible to ascertain the number of student participants for the coming year, and it might be appropriate for a review and justification of all UMAP activities to be pursued and UMAP's core business highlighted.

Other options might include an immediate and rapid expansion of COIL-related learning and a new or increased focus on Internationalization at Home (IaH) at participating universities using a shared curriculum.

Each National Secretariat could be asked to identify online courses from their membership that can be made available to the UMAP network.

The Board could consider constitutional changes that would allow:

1. Membership fees to go directly to support the operations of the IS
2. Suspension of the research component of UMAP and of using membership fees to fund research
3. A formal review of the membership fee structure
4. The IS term be changed to an optional three-year term or a five-year term, rather than the current mandatory five-year term.

the end

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For your information, let us share the background and the recent developments with you:

#### 1. Background

The member country/territory serving as the International Secretariat shall support the costs of the basic infrastructure for the International Secretariat and appoint the Secretary General during the five-year term as stated in the UMAP constitution.

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#### 2. Recent Developments

2.1 At the previous board meetings, board members proposed that BCCIE would be one of the most favorable entities to be International Secretariat. BCCIE stated that they would notify board members whether they could serve as the next IS at the 1<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting 2020.

2.2 BCCIE, the UMAP IS and UMAP Chair Country had several meetings about the transition of the UMAP IS. In case BCCIE could not receive the government's financial support, we listed up necessary tasks to run UMAP programs and reviewed UMAP IS's operation costs.