

Esteemed UPEACE Council Members,

On Wednesday November 26th, at 12:56 PM (CST-Central Standard Time), you were each sent an email expressing the issues related to the proposed academic changes. To date, we have not received any response. We hereby respectfully ask you to respond in writing and take action regarding our concerns.

We wish to call your attention to the fact that despite

- everything that has been said during the meetings on campus last Monday and Tuesday in the presence of Chancellor Judy Cheng-Hopkins and Rector Francisco Rojas Aravena;
- all the letters that you have received from the academic departments, professors, students and alumni;
- non-violent protests staged by students;
- the absence of a formal decision by the Council;
- the fact that, realistically speaking, it is too late to make academic changes for the next school year, given that
 - there are faculty members who refuse to teach a curriculum that is not aligned with their expertise and research;
 - prospective students have already applied to the program as it is,
 - there are students who have deferred admission to come next year for existing programs,
 - partnerships with other universities are now in jeopardy;
- and the many other reasons that have been reiterated over the past several months;

we have received confirmation that the IT department was instructed to prepare to publish the proposed academic changes on the UPEACE website very shortly. **The UPEACE website is thus about to reflect academic changes that are not supported by the majority of the UPEACE community.** It is most disappointing that these proposed changes have not been developed or approved in a manner worthy of any university, much less worthy of the name University for Peace.

The email you received on Wednesday outlined the lack of process and dialogue regarding these proposed changes. We have shown good faith in attempting to initiate a fulsome dialogue, without response.

This lack of response is clearly a sign of bad faith on the part of not only Council Member Judy Cheng-Hopkins, but the entire Council itself. We request that these proposed changes be postponed immediately to allow for a significant and purposeful dialogue necessary to ensure that change be effective. We fear that if some members of the Council impose the changes in a rush, the University might lose significant financial and staffing capacity. We believe that this would be the exact opposite of what we are all striving for and what the Council intends.

Once again, for the reasons mentioned above, **we request that the Council stop any action related to the change in the academic program on the UPEACE website as of today, Sunday November 30th, 2014.**

Members of the UPEACE Community, including but not limited to staff, students, alumni, and faculty, are fully aware that the academic programs need improvement. We simply disagree with the process being followed and the kinds of changes being pursued. We have repeatedly asked for meaningful dialogue and once again we reiterate the need for it before any changes are developed or implemented.

Thus far, we have refrained from making our concerns public out of respect for this institution, which we hold so dear. We have already expressed our concerns regarding the possible severe consequences for the future and reputation of the University if Council members take this risk and allow the changes to continue after failing to take into account requests for dialogue, the offer of informed feedback and the need for a comprehensive needs analysis.

In light of the apparent secrecy with which the changes have been advanced, and the disingenuous conduct of Ms. Cheng-Hopkins and the Rector of the University, we can no longer afford to give the Council's silence on the matter the benefit of the doubt. You have had and you still have the power to reverse this destructive and non-inclusive process, but if changes are made *de facto* by publishing them anywhere, including on the UPEACE website, we fear we will have to consider expressing publicly our concerns.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and understanding in this matter.

We look forward to your plan of action for addressing these issues and those detailed in previous communications by **Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2014.**

With peace,

Jamshid Bakhtiari - International Law and Human Rights, 2015
Manjusri Balangoda - Peace Education, 2015
Tran Thi Thuy Binh - Gender and Peacebuilding, 2015
Hannah Bohart - Gender and Peacebuilding, 2015
Erick Vieira Curvelo - International Law and Settlement of Disputes, 2015
Bridget Delage - International Law and Human Rights, 2015
Laura Edda Delaunay - International Law and Human Rights, 2015
Rafael Fierro - International Peace Studies, 2015
Brett Goldberg - Gender and Peacebuilding, 2015
Emily Gorham - Peace Education, 2015
Marisa Huston - Peace Education, 2015
Benjamin-Alexandre Jeanroy - International Peace Studies, 2015
Maggie Jeffries - Gender and Peacebuilding, 2015
Yu Min Lee - International Law and Human Rights, 2015
Abigail Praise Limpin - Peace Education, 2015
Taiki Namiki - Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development, 2015
Elizabeth Pine - Peace Education, 2015
Daniela Bolivar Rosales - Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development, 2015
Bernadeth Anggia Maria Rosarie - International Law and Settlement of Disputes, 2015
Managleibi Sarungbam - International Law and Human Rights, 2015
Mi Ri Seo - Peace Education, 2015
Hikari Taniguchi - Peace Education, 2015
Luciana Téllez - International Law and Human Rights, 2015

Paula Vega - Responsible Management and Sustainable Economic Development, 2015
Emily Vining - Gender and Peacebuilding, 2015
Dina Vivona - International Law and Human Rights, 2015