



CHAIR, ACADEMIC SENATE
RIVERSIDE DIVISION
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE BUILDING, RM 225

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December 5, 2008

Mary Croughan
Professor, Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences
Chair, UC Systemwide Academic Senate
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Mary:

RE: EDUCATION ABROAD BUSINESS PLAN

I am writing to provide you with the UCR Senate review of the Education Abroad Program (EAP) Business Plan that was prepared by Michael Cowan, Acting Executive director of the EAP.

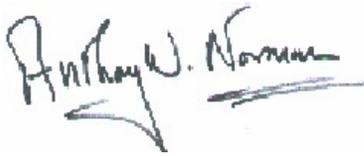
Here at UC-Riverside the EAP Business Plan was reviewed by our Planning & Budget Committee (P&B), the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) and the Committee on International Education (CIP). I have summarized their responses below.

The three Committees felt that our UC EAP provided an important educational opportunity to interested students from our 10 campuses who wished to enrich their learning experience in a wide variety of available foreign centers. Indeed, some 4500 students per year (200 - 250 students per year from UCR mostly in short summer programs) have partaken of the EAP program in recent years. Academically our UC EAP program is considered to be the 'gold standard' for university based international exchange programs in the US. That notwithstanding, UC President Yudof, who is seriously challenged by the fiscal status of the State of California and of the budget prospects for UC both this fiscal year and in future years, has given a directive to EAP to "achieve major economies and greater cost-efficiency, to depend much less on general funds, and to rely much more on student fees". Implementation of this mandate will result in a reduction of the EAP budget revenues provide by the UC General fund by 85 % (approximately a \$14 million) reduction in 2011-2012.

- **CEP:** The CEP recognized that the EAP Business Plan proposed a significant increase in student fees to back-fill the input of funds from UCOP. CEP's principal concern was that imposition of a large increase in student fees could create a problem of equal access for all students on the Riverside campus. Given the broad student diversity here at UCR, this then is a serious concern with no apparent solution in sight.
- **P&B:** Our P&B Committee presented both a majority report (5 members) and a minority report (1 member). The majority report cited several broad issues of concern: (a) the EAP is not a plan, but a mandate with little concern to the consequences of the significant budget cuts; (b) the document was prepared without input from the campus directors of EAP; (c) P&B objects to the characterization of EAP as a non-academic program; (d) P&B is concerned about the apparent aim of decentralizing EAP; and (e) the discussion of student fee increases is confusing and incomplete (it is far from being transparent). The Minority report touched on many of the points listed above, but with lesser fervor.
- **CIE:** The CIE provided a 5 page report. CIE recognizes that "in the current financial climate, it seems unavoidable that severe cuts to programs like EAP will be part of such a business plan" like the one proposed for EAP. The prime question then becomes to what degrees will the cuts and other proposed changes damage EAP? Will this result in a change in the character (excellence) of EAP fundamentally and irrevocably. The CIE then addressed four main topics of concern. These included the following: (a) Faculty involvement in EAP [it is proposed two-thirds of the faculty-in-residence student center directors will be eliminated which creates a cascade of problems]; (b) Equitable student access to EAP [Conversion of funding to a student-fee based model leads to concerns about student access to the program, which is of particularly concern here at UCR]; (c) funding for campus operations in support of EAP [this portion of the business plan implies that UCR's central administration will have to provide at least \$100,000 annually in addition to its current support, which seems unrealistic]; and (d) preservation of EAP as an academic program [the tenor of the Cowan report is that EAP is really a service program rather than an academic program].

In summary, the three UCR Senate committees who invested time in reviewing the EAP Business Plan have all found troubling issues or problems that are not addressed or answered in the Cowen EAP Business Plan. There is a consensus that the proposed new business plan is the result of President Yudof's mandate for an 85% reduction in UC General Fund contributions to EAP. None of the committees are comfortable with this business plan and all urge further senate involvement in defining the future of EAP at the University of California.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anthony W. Norman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Anthony W. Norman
Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and
Biomedical Sciences; and
Chair of the Riverside Division

CC: Martha Kendall Winnacker, Executive Director of the Academic Senate
Sellyna Ehlers, Director of UCR Academic Senate office