The committee has had three meetings so far this year with additional communications via email.

1. The committee has continued to work with the International Services Center, the Campus Director of EAP, and the Vice Chancellor for International Programs to ensure that appropriate guidance and support be given to UCR’s community of international students and scholars in an atmosphere of heightened anxiety and surveillance due to the terrorist attacks of September 2001 and the war in Iraq. The committee has received regular updates on the efforts of UOEAP to ensure the safety of EAP students in light of international hostilities.

2. The committee has submitted a request for its membership to be modified in two respects: (i) by having it consist of “at least five members” instead of “five members” so as to help sustain the committee if continuing members are on leave, and (ii) by adding the Vice Chancellor for International Programs as a non-voting representative on the committee, in recognition of the crucial role played by that figure in International Education at UCR.

3. The committee’s work has otherwise been focused on contributing to the discussions taking place on campus relating to the future of International Education at UCR. In May 2003 a Task Force on International Education appointed by then Executive Vice Chancellor David Warren submitted a Report with several broad recommendations. These included the appointment of faculty committees to:

* develop a new interdisciplinary major in Global Studies,
* conduct a major review of International Education functions at UCR
* recommend ways to improve ESL training on campus and to integrate international students more effectively into the student body at UCR.

Shortly before leaving office, Executive Vice Chancellor Warren appointed three faculty committees to address these issues. Interim Executive Vice Chancellor William Jury subsequently broadened the membership and revised the charge of the committee to envision an interdisciplinary major in Global Studies. He suspended the other two committees and several months later invited the Senate Committee on International Education to address a range of issues arising from the Task Force recommendations, including:

(i) the structural relationship between various International Education functions within the university (who does what, who reports to whom, how they are interconnected), how this works on other campuses, and whether there might be a better way to organize these functions at UCR;
(ii) how best to ensure that International students at UCR are integrated into a vibrant and constructive internationalized community on campus; and
(iii) how to foster and enhance EAP at UCR.

(It was agreed that other faculty committees are currently reassessing ESL at UCR, so that the senate committee need not concern itself with this issue.)

We responded as follows in a memorandum addressed to the Interim Executive Vice Chancellor, the incoming Executive Vice Chancellor, and the Chancellor:

We would like to begin by reaffirming the position taken by the Task Force in its report, that it is “the university’s responsibility and duty to provide its students with an environment and education that will make them well rounded, open-minded, and responsible citizens of the world. In light of recent world events, the need to foster a deeper international understanding is, perhaps, greater than ever before.
NAFSA’s 2003 report, *Internationalizing the Campus*, issues a call for action: ‘If ever there was a time when we need to do all that we can to renew world commitment to international learning, understanding, and cooperation, that time is come.’

But rhetoric is not enough. If UCR is indeed committed to this admirable goal, it needs to take concrete steps to ensure that it delivers.

1. There is an overarching obstacle to maximizing excellence in International Education at UCR. That obstacle is the lack of a coherent, integrated organizational structure to enable those involved in various aspects of International Education to pool their resources, skills, and energy as effectively as possible. Until this year, responsibility for UCR’s International Education functions was bifurcated: EAP and the International Services Center were supervised by the Vice Chancellor for Student affairs (though the Director of EAP reported directly to the EVC); other programs were the responsibility of the Vice Chancellor of Public Service and International Programs. That bifurcation made it extremely difficult to capitalize on potential synergies or to achieve a coherent, effective International Education strategy at UCR, despite the dedication of those involved and their frequent efforts to overcome structural obstacles.

UCR is not unique in this regard, but other UC campuses such as Davis and Santa Barbara are currently reorganizing International Education functions so as to ensure a more unified organizational structure that will improve efficiency and foster concerted strategies. UCR is now moving in the opposite direction, from bifurcation to trifurcation: responsibility for EAP has now shifted to the Office of Undergraduate Education, while the International Services Center remains under the supervision of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. Given that the International Services Center is responsible for administering EAP locally and also a range of other functions, this creates a number of ambiguities (not least fiscal), none of which have been elucidated in recent months.

This committee is very concerned about the negative impact of a shift away from, instead of toward, structural and administrative coherence. It is especially concerned to hear that there is interest in shifting responsibility for advising prospective EAP students to the Office of Undergraduate Education. We can only assume that whoever is responsible for this proposal does not realize the complexity of EAP options (involving programs from across the entire range of disciplines, offered by 150 host institutions in 35 countries) and the scale of expertise required to give effective, responsible advice to students interested in study abroad. The staff at International Services also provides information and advice about non-EAP opportunities for study abroad. Would the staff at the Office of Undergraduate Education master all of that information as well?

We urge that the senior administration at UCR rethink its strategy. We recommend that all International Education functions at UCR be placed under one senior administrator and that the person in that position have the requisite knowledge of International Education to provide informed, engaged, and effective leadership. We urge that funding for EAP and other International Education functions be made much more transparent and that it should reflect the campus administration’s expressions of support for International Education at UCR. We call on the administration to capitalize on the tremendous enthusiasm and commitment among a broad range of individuals at UCR who care deeply about International Education and believe passionately in its importance by providing them with a unified and effective organizational structure through which UCR can become a leader in International Education, both within the UC system and across the nation.

2. The introduction of a new major in Global Studies will be an important step in that direction. However, the new major cannot be expected to establish itself as a significant component of the curriculum without the commitment of substantial resources, including FTE. Outside funding can and should play an important role in this enterprise, especially given the current budgetary situation, but outside funding cannot replace an institutional commitment to support and sustain the new major. Without that commitment, faculty cannot be expected to invest the considerable time and energy required
3. An increase in the number of UCR students who participate in the Education Abroad Program is clearly desirable. But if those responsible for EAP are to achieve that goal, they need to be provided with adequate space, staff, and informational technology. Support for International Services at the campus level has long been an issue across the UC system; incoming funds linked to EAP enrollment that were intended to support International Services are regularly reallocated to the detriment of International Education. We suspect that those responsible for budgetary and administrative decisions may not always appreciate the complexity of EAP. The staff at UCR’s International Services Center and the members of this committee welcome the campus administration’s recent expressions of enthusiasm for growth in EAP enrollment, but that involves launching recruitment initiatives, working with departments and administrative units on campus to ensure better academic integration of EAP programs with the fulfilment of university and major requirements, and, assuming success, a significantly increased workload in terms of processing applications and pre-departure orientation. The sheer number and complexity of EAP options available to students presents a formidable challenge to staff responsible for advising interested students. UCR’s International Services staff is dedicated and hard working, but there are limits to what a tiny staff on a shoestring budget can achieve. If the administration wants to increase participation by UCR students in EAP, it has to provide the necessary support.

4. Providing our students with the knowledge and skills to engage constructively and effectively in multi-cultural environments, both within the U.S. and internationally, becomes ever more imperative. Opportunities for study abroad and the introduction of a new major in Global Studies are a crucial part of that mission, but we also need to reach students who do not participate in such programs. It is very clear to those who have regular contact with UCR undergraduates that being enrolled in a university remarkable for its diversity does not necessarily translate into an informed, open-minded, and mutually respectful attitude on the part of all our students. We applaud the administration’s swift responses to egregious expressions of intolerance and hatred on campus and also the appointment of a team charged with the fostering of constructive diversity on campus. But there needs to be a much more coherent strategy for informing students specifically about international issues and encouraging thoughtful, respectful engagement with the rest of the world.

In addition to curriculum-based initiatives, we feel strongly that UCR should be offering a wide range of extracurricular events and programs designed to enhance student awareness of international issues and to foster an informed and constructive attitude toward other cultures. There are already a number of such events and programs offered on campus, but frequent lack of coordination between the various agencies involved (departments, administrative units, and student groups) and the absence of an agency charged with the dissemination of information about such events makes it extremely difficult (i) to maximize attendance, or (ii) to identify needs for and organize additional programs.

We endorse the recommendation made by last year’s task force that there should be a Director for International Awareness responsible for

(i) the conceptualization and organization of events and programs that would enable students to learn about and discuss international events and that would capitalize on the presence of international students at UCR, creating opportunities for international students to have greater contact with other students at UCR,
(ii) the collection and dissemination of information regarding other events and programs organized elsewhere on campus relating to international education, and
(iii) applying for external support (such as FIPSI grants) to fund events and programs.

The position should be filled by a member of the academic senate with a history of engagement with international issues and a clear commitment to collaborating with other faculty, student organizations, and administrative units to foster as wide a range as possible of events and programs. This would be a
time-consuming assignment, requiring significant commitment as well as vision and creativity; the Director would need to be given course release. The Director would need modest office space and staff support. It seems logical that this office should be associated with the administrative unit responsible for International Programs, not least so that space and modest resources can be channeled through that unit.

If the university is serious about becoming a truly international community, it needs to create an atmosphere on campus that matches that commitment - that means reaching out to all students, not just those who participate in EAP or the new major. Achieving that is especially challenging on a commuter campus. Appointing a Director of International Awareness responsible for devising and executing a strategy to this end would enable UCR to become a leading voice in the current nationwide quest to “internationalize” campuses.

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