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The International Education Committee at the University of California, Riverside, has met once so far this academic year, and the chair has periodically distributed email communications and attachments to members when relevant. The Committee continues to work with the International Services Center, the Campus Director of EAP, and others on campus who play an important role in furthering international studies at UCR. What follows is a brief summation of IEC work and concerns.

At our November meeting, the Committee agreed on the importance of expanding its membership so that it has broader representation. Several nominees have not been able to serve, and presently our request for two additional members lies with the Committee on Committees which we presume will act before the beginning of the Fall Quarter.

At that meeting, The IEC also took up two key issues: The Education Abroad Program and Global Studies. What follows is a summary and evaluation of developments in those two areas and also in Latin American Studies. Please note that it is not the purpose of this report to catalog and comment on all the various, excellent international studies related programs on campus. Instead, the report selects out three programs that demand greater attention from the Administration at critical junctures in their development.

Education Abroad

The Education Abroad Program (EAP) is in need of expansion on our campus. For example, UCR lags considerably behind all the other U.C. campuses in terms of numbers and the percent of students participating. Last year, there were 161 UCR students in EAP; the next lowest was UCD with 350, then UCSC with 491. The average participation by the other seven campuses was 582 students. Over the last 5 years 3.8% of U.C. upper division students have been involved in EAP system wide; for UCR the figure is 2.0%. Part of the difficulty is visibility; many students are simply unaware of the EAP program and its advantages. Part of the difficulty is one of finding a “fit” between a student’s academic program and the EAP, and making EAP a more integral part of academic life on campus.

To help resolve these problems, The International Services Center, headed by Diane Elton, has expanded its outreach program, in cooperation with the Campus EAP director Lynda Bell, David Pion-Berlin, the IEC Chair and member of the Political Science Department, and a number of other departments on campus. Efforts include the enhanced use of newly generated promotional items from the UC wide EAP office in Santa Barbara such as video flashpoints sent via email, which briefly introduce students to EAP and then land them at a website for additional information; the setting up of a satellite office in central commons beginning in Spring Quarter; increased information and application workshops; and increased contacts between EAP and departmental undergraduate
advisors. Political Science has served as a kind of pilot program in these respects. It has revamped its academic EAP advising sheet, incorporated video flashpoints in mailings to over 800 majors, and made EAP advising an integral part of the Department’s functions.

The EAP office has been able to hire a full time staff person dedicated to compiling a data base on past student participation in EAP, department by department. This information will allow us to identify various strengths and weaknesses in the program, track participation rates by countries and courses taken, and help insure that students can fulfill their general education and major requirements while in EAP. It should also be noted that in its November 10, 2004 meeting, the IEC passed a resolution encouraging department heads, undergraduate advisors and secretaries to meet with the EAP’s new staff person to map out strategies for making EAP a more visible and vital component to the education of our undergrads.

The Education Abroad Program is one of the most effective means this university has to expose our students to the greater “world out there” and specifically to different countries, cultures, and points of view. The IEC believes it is vitally important that the Administration continue to support, both morally and financially, EAP activities on campus.

Global Studies
On many other U.C. campuses, Global Studies programs and majors have been designed and implemented with stunning success. At the behest of then Interim EVC William Jury, a university-wide ad hoc committee was formed in 2003 and charged with considering whether and how to organize a potential undergraduate program and major in Global Studies at UCR. The final report of that committee was submitted in late June, 2004, to William Jury and to the incoming EVC, Ellen Wartella. The IEC chair David Pion-Berlin served on that ad-hoc Committee and helped prepare course statistics for its report. The IEC gave its endorsement to Global Studies efforts at its November 2004 meeting in a resolution which specifically asked for the appointment of a senior-level scholar (FTE full time) to head up a Global Studies initiative on our campus.

In last year’s IEC Annual Report to the Academic Senate, it was noted that a “new major in Global Studies cannot be expected to establish itself as a significant component of the curriculum without the commitment of substantial resources, including FTE.” It went on to say that without that commitment, “faculty cannot be expected to invest the considerable time and energy required to make this new major work.”

Regrettably, the Administration—from the level of EVC on down—has shown little interest in devoting the time or resources necessary to create a university-wide major in Global Studies. Some administrators have concluded that there is insufficient campus interest in such an endeavor, despite the participation of faculty in the aforementioned ad-hoc committee from such diverse departments and schools as Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Management, Education, Sociology, Economics, History and Political Science. Lynda Bell, who chaired the ad-hoc committee and took the lead in writing up its report, has tried valiantly to promote the idea of Global Studies on campus, having met numerous times with relevant faculty and administrative personnel. But so far, the Administration has refused to commit itself to funding even the basics necessary to kick
start the global studies initiative, including the release of partial FTE for some faculty to teach a gateway course, the appointment of an FTE full-time Global Studies Director, and the provision of support staff and office space from which to operate.

The IEC believes that the university is in danger of missing a golden opportunity to advance the cause of international education on campus. In this post 9/11 day and age, it is vital that our students come to appreciate how inter-connected we are with others on the planet, on so many different levels. While students may get partial international views from various pre-existing courses, they will lose sight of the larger global picture without the benefit of a major that can channel their attention into a series of well integrated gateway and advanced Global Studies courses. It is our hope that the Administration will reconsider its reluctance to back Global Studies on our campus, take another look at the ground-breaking work of the ad-hoc committee and decide what can be done in the next year to advance phase one of Global Studies on campus.

**Latin American Studies**

Finally, the IEC takes note of the efforts underway at UCR to strengthen Latin American Studies. Under the leadership of Steven Helfand (Economics), the Latin American Studies Committee has reformed the undergraduate curriculum--most noticeably with the introduction of a gateway course in Latin American Studies to commence in Fall 2005. The LASP has been more active this year in organizing and co-sponsoring lectures and films than at any time in the recent past. Still, LAS has a ways to go before it can consider itself on solid footing. The LAS committee has developed a *Vision for LAS Growth at UCR* that involves the creation of a LAS department, a Masters program, and a LAS Center. The CHASS Dean encouraged LAS to submit a bold request for FTE growth, including the search for a senior, internationally renown, outside Chair who could lead the LAS transition toward departmental and Center status. The IEC hopes that the CHASS will follow through by committing the resources necessary to fulfilling these goals.

David Pion-Berlin, Chair (Political Science)
Christopher Chase-Dunn (Sociology)
Sang-Hee Lee (Anthropology)
Vladimir Parpura (Cell Biology and Neuroscience)
Richard Stouthamer (Entomology)
Allen Blay (AGSM)
Lynda Bell (ex-officio, Campus EAP Director)
Diane Elton (Director, International Services Center)
Jack Azzaretto (Vice Chancellor for Public Service and International Programs)
Sheila Dwight (Director, International Education Programs, University Extension)
John Tibbetts - (ASUCR Rep)
Eric Zhang- (GSA Rep)