So far in this academic year (2009-2010), the Committee on International Education (CIE) has met three times, respectively on October 20 and November 23, 2009, and on January 27, 2010. As in the past, CIE meetings have been coordinated with the schedule of the university-wide committee, the University Committee on International Education (UCIE), the meetings of which the CIE Chair (Y. Ye) attends. This year, the UCIE already held 4 meetings, respectively on October 8 and November 5, 2009, January 13 and March 11, 2010, with the last of these, due to a shortened agenda, being held as a telephone conference. The CIE Chair attended the first three meetings in Oakland; due to his teaching schedule, the Chair was unable to attend the last of these, the telephone conference, which was attended instead by CIE member G. Xu, appointed by the Senate as an alternate. A fifth meeting of the UCIE is to be held on May 13, 2010, and in coordination with that, a fourth meeting of the CIE is planned for a subsequent date in the Spring Quarter of 2010.

The CIE Chair currently also serves as a representative of the CIE and the Academic Senate on UCR’s Special Committee on International Activities, chaired by Joseph W. Childers, Dean of the Graduate Division. That committee was formed at the beginning of this year (2010) and specifically charged to make an updated evaluation of the current state of international education at UCR, at both the undergraduate and graduate/professional levels, especially in regards to the recruitment of international students to UCR and the opportunities for academically meaningful study abroad experience for UCR students. CIE members S. Duffy, D. Elton, and B. Jenkins-Deas are also on the committee. The CIE Chair and the above-named CIE members attended a number of that committee’s meetings on February 24, March 5, and April 25. Another meeting is to be held on May 10, 2010. The committee is now in the final stage of making a number of specific recommendations to enhance the international education at UCR.

Because of an administrative decision which took place during the summer of 2009, at the beginning of the year the committee had to vote to change its bylaw 8.15.1, which removed the Ex Officio committee member with the title “Director of the Education Abroad Program (EAP),” as the position no longer existed at UCR due to that administrative change, and replaced this member with the Ex Officio committee member with the title “Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education” (B. Hyman), who has assumed all the responsibilities of the EAP Director. The committee was concerned about not being consulted about the administrative decision, and the CIE Chair was thereby commissioned to draft and send a memo on behalf of the committee to Dave Fairris, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education and copy Anthony Norman, Chair of the UCR Academic Senate, raising the committee’s concerns. Later, the Chair received a memo from VP Fairris enumerating the reasons of the administrative decision.
The committee also discussed EVCP Dallas Rabenstein’s Strategic Planning and its subcommittees, and considering the fact that no International Education and Research subcommittee was included, the committee felt that this important topic should be integrated into all the other subcommittees. The CIE Chair drafted and sent a memo on behalf of the committee to EVCP Rabenstein, copying all the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the subcommittees, which stated that International Education needs to be integrated into all of the Strategic Planning subcommittees. Subsequently the Chair received a memo from EVC Rabenstein with his promise to bring up the importance of incorporating International Education into all Strategic Planning committees at the next meeting. Also, CIE member S. Duffy chairs one of the subcommittees (Community Engagement) and another CIE member, B. Hyman, is on another (Excellence in Undergraduate Education), and through their effort, some of the committee’s concerns have also been conveyed to the respective committees. According to CIE member Duffy, the EVC did bring this up twice in the meeting. Ken Baerenklau, Vice Chair of the sub-committee of Excellence in the Delivery of Graduate Education (EDGE), and another member of that sub-committee, held a meeting with the CIE Chair, during which they discussed international education, more specifically, on the topics of funding, recruitment, student/faculty exchange, and international student experience.

In the Fall Quarter of 2009, the CIE was asked to respond to the Final Report of the 2008-2009 Joint Administration-Senate Task Force on the Education Abroad Program (EAP). After studying the report and discussing it at its two committee meetings in that quarter, the CIE sent a memo to Chair Anthony Norman of the UCR Academic Senate (dated December 7, 2009), detailing its response to the Final Report and raising its concern on four issues for the UCR Senate to incorporate into its compilation of a divisional response. These issues are respectively on: 1) UOEAP (University Office of Education Abroad Program) Governing Committee; 2) UOEAP Relocation and the Issue of Course Articulation; 3) UOEAP Fee & Other Cost Effective Means of Administration; and 4) Student Perspective. The memo incorporated the discussion of the CIE members at the meetings, and also with important input from CIE member B. Hyman, who in his new capacity as Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education has become a member of the university-wide Council of Campus Directors for EAP (CCD).

This year, the EAP at UC has faced severe challenges to its healthy survival because of the dire financial situation. A considerable amount in general funds was removed permanently by the UC Office of the President (UCOP) from UCEAP’s 2009-10 funding, and major additional cuts from UCOP allocation to UCEAP are expected in 2010-11. The UCIE has been asked by the UOEAP to: 1) discuss and formulate a proposal with regard to UCIE-UOEAP consulting protocols that will make the interactions more productive with a goal to ensure that the UOEAP bring items to the UCIE in a timely manner, and provide the latter the needed information to act in a timely manner on these items, and that the two institutions productively interact between the UCIE’s formal meetings; 2) to discuss and formulate in principle of a recruitment strategy for EAP in which the UOEAP plays a more active role than it has in the past, in consultation with the UCIE, the campus EAP offices, and the new Governance Committee; 3) to discuss and make recommendations on Advice on the three EAP budget models for 2010-11 that the UCOP has instructed UOEAP to prepare for consideration, each with different implications for the level of fees EAP would need to charge students, for the level and kinds of services EAP’s California and overseas staffs could provide students, for the range and number of programs EAP could offer,
and for the funding of faculty oversight; and 4) to advice on how to sustain EAP’s exchange programs in the face of campus administrators’ resistance, and to develop effective ways to encourage campus support of these exchange programs. (A number of senior campus administrators have indicated that they will no longer be willing to receive EAP reciprocity students from UC’s partner universities abroad, since they cannot afford the cost of instructing and otherwise supporting those students. But if the UC campuses do not accept those reciprocity students, the partner universities will not accept UC students. And, since EAP’s exchange programs are at the core of EAP’s mission, the demise of those programs likely means the demise of EAP.)

In addition, due to the unprecedented budget cuts, UCIE has been charged to make a number of critical decisions regarding the closure of study centers as well as overseas staff reductions, not only this year, but for the foreseeable future. In addition to the closing of programs at Concepción, Göttingen, Grenoble, and Padova in the previous year of 2008-2009, a program in Sweden has been recommended for elimination given the current funding in 2009-10, and for 2010-11 the program at Leiden (the Netherland), University of Costa Rica, Siena (Italy), Russia, Hungary and South Africa. So far, with input from the CIE which the CIE Chair expressed at the UCIE meetings, the UCIE has made recommendations to retain the program at Russia and to find ways to retain the Siena and Hungary program.

In the Fall Quarter of 2009, the CIE Chair served on a special sub-committee as a UCIE member, formed at the request of Michael Cowen, Director of the UCEOP, to review the application for a single EAP Study Center Director in France, beginning July 1, 2010, to oversee the three study centers in Bordeaux, Lyon, and Paris. Because the movement from two Directors to a single Director would offer administrative challenges that could best be addressed by experienced faculty, both of the present directors were invited, and both showed an interest, to have their appointment extended for a third year. The committee was charged to review the application materials of the two candidates, and to make a recommendation to Director Cowan as to which candidate should serve a third year. Working via email and telephone, the committee made a recommendation at the end of October 2009.

The CIE Chair was also appointed as the UCIE representative in the 2010 Japan Reorganization Committee, chaired by UCI’s Prof. Anne Walthall, a UC systemwide faculty advisory group to advise EAP about its current institutional partnerships for short and long-term exchange programs in Japan, and to consolidate, simplify, and stream-line these programs while maintaining sufficient overall capacity to accommodate current and future levels of UC student interest. The committee reviewed EAP’s current institutional partnerships for short and long-term exchange programs in Japan and held two telephone conferences in March and April of this year for an extensive discussion of these programs. The committee then made a number of recommendations, to be discussed and approved by the UCIE, that may allow EAP to strengthen its partnerships while meeting student participation targets and achieving maximum efficiencies in program administration and workload. In addition, in February 2010 the CIE Chair drafted the UCIE response to the formal review of the EAP Program in Taiwan and the UOEAP response, to be incorporated in a UCIE memo to the UOEAP.
Last but not least, on a matter unrelated to international education but important to the CIE as one of UCR Academic Senate’s committees, at its January 2010 meeting, the CIE also discussed the proposed changes in the procedures for election of the UCR Division Senate leadership positions, and sent a memo to UCR Senate Chair Norman (dated February 2, 2010). The committee felt that they liked the idea of including the past Chair within the leadership, but wondered if faculty would be willing to serve 3 years as opposed to the current term of 2 years and if past Chairs had been consulted if they would have been willing to serve as Chair if it was a three year commitment. The committee also brought up the issue that if the past Chair would be a voting member on the Executive Council, it would mean 4 votes on the Executive Council (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and now past Chair) as opposed to the current 3 votes. Since the past chair is there for historical knowledge, the committee felt that making that person an ex officio, non-voting member on the Executive Council would be the best idea. The committee chose to respond to the proposal favorably but added that they were curious if past Chairs would have wanted to stay for a third year and recommended that the past Chair be an ex officio, non-voting member on the Executive Council.

Piya Chatterjee (Women’s Studies)
Sharon A. Duffy (GSOE; UNEX Interim Dean)
Diane E. Elton (Director, International Education Center)
Bradley Hyman (Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education)
Bronwyn Jenkins-Deas (Director, UNEX IEP)
Bai-Lian Larry Li (Botany & Plant Sciences)
Jiri Simunek (Environmental Sciences)
Guanshui Xu (Mechanical Engineering)
Yun Ray Wang (GSA Representative)
Yang Ye (Comparative Literature & Foreign Languages), Chair