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So far in this academic year (2010-2011), the Committee on International Education (CIE) has met three times, respectively on November 19, 2010, January 31 and April 7, 2011. As in the past, CIE meetings have in general 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 3 meetings, respectively on November 4, 2010, January 21, and March 21, 2011, with the last of these, due to the shrinking budget, being held as a telephone conference. A fourth meeting of the UCIE is to be held on May 13, 2011, and in coordination with that, another meeting of the CIE is planned for a subsequent date in the Spring Quarter of 2011.

During this academic year (2010-2011), while the budget situation continues to be quite challenging, the downsizing and restructuring at UCEAP is finally complete; although several locations had to be closed in the past two years due to the budget cuts, there will be no more closings except for those previously selected to close. A permanent Executive Director (also with the title of Associate Vice Provost), Jean-Xavier Guinard, has started his tenure at the helms. UCEAP’s budget deficit will also be eliminated by the end of 2010-11. UCEAP is now at 70 staff FTEs (from 120 FTEs a couple years ago) and at 75 FTEs abroad. The new funding model, which is based on student fees, is now being implemented with General Fund appropriations declining to zero by 2013-14. EAP enrollments are up from 4,528 (2009-10) to 4,872 (2010-11); the number of FTEs have risen by about 100 each year for the past three years. Applications for the 2011-12 academic year are up by approximately 9%. However, these numbers may reflect the general increase in enrollments at the University; if these enrollments were to decline, then EAP’s enrollment numbers could decline as well.

Going forward, the challenges for UCEAP include: 1) A variety of funding and operational models at the campus study abroad offices; 2) two distinct oversight bodies in the form of UCIE and the UCEAP Governing Committee; and 3) increasing enrollments. With respect to the last point, the number of EAP participants is rising, but FTEs remain steady from year to year. This is due to the increasingly popularity of shorter-term programs, with year-long immersion programs continuing to decline in a reflection of the national trend. The key priorities ahead include increasing student access for study abroad, maintaining and improving academic excellence within EAP programs, and implementing best business practices. The new director’s immediate objectives include a number of campus visits; developing a budget to present to the UCEAP Governing Committee and Provost Pitts, and developing an administrative partnership with the local campus (UCSB) where the UCEAP is to be housed. Another important item under discussion and planning is of faculty governance as it moves away from a strict Study Center Director (SCD) model, and towards some kind of a faculty consultant model. Given that UCEAP can no longer be the EAP that was established 50 years ago with a SCD at almost every site, remote faculty governance becomes even more important. One such mechanism may be the faculty advisory committee, which can be regionally or discipline-based.
Several new faculty advisory committees have been established and two new programs are being discussed: English language Business Economics Program in Spain, and the reinstatement of the program in Architecture and Design in Denmark. Four new study center directors for France, Spain, Chile, and Mexico have been appointed. Proposed Formal Reviews of EAP Programs for 2011-12 include those for Ireland, Paris Summer Language & Culture (three-year review), Scandinavia, and South Africa, two of which are preliminarily scheduled for Fall 2011 while the other two are for Winter/Spring 2012. UCIE is to develop a thorough and well thought-out proposal for formal reviews, which would opine on the importance of onsite reviews.

UCEAP has appointed two Faculty Advisory Committees, one on UCEAP in China, Taiwan, & Hong Kong and another on UCEAP in Southeast Asia, and it will establish two more such committees, one on UCEAP in Turkey and one on UCEAP in the Middle East. In part due to the transition towards less study center directors, the UCEAP believes that these are indeed pilot models of long-term faculty oversight and campus engagement, and should be differentiated from past faculty advisory committees that have historically been used to investigate the possibility of creating new programs in certain geographical regions. In the views of the UCEAP, these advisory committees can and should be constructed around subjects or disciplines; not only geography. The UCIE has proposed a faculty advisory committee on heritage language programs, and also encouraged the UCEAP to solicit input from UCIE when constituting these advisory committees in order to get a broader spectrum of the faculty. In addition, the UCEAP has proposed two new programs for the year: English Language Business/Economics Program in Spain and Reinstatement of the Denmark Institute for Study Abroad program in Architecture & Design. This year, Dr. Ye has started serving on the Faculty Advisory Committee on UCEAP in China, Taiwan and Hong Kong for a two-year tenure of the job, and in that capacity has been consulted on, and made responses to, a number of related UCEAP initiatives.

Earlier in this academic year, the new UCEAP Executive Director Guinard made his visit to the UCR campus and met with CIE committee member Dr. Perring, and was quite impressed with the unique aspects of UCR in that we have more first generation immigrants than other campuses. In the second half of the last academic year (2009-2010), Dr. Ye, the CIE Chair, served 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 last 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 Dr. Duffy, D. Elton, and B. Jenkins-Deas were also on the committee. The CIE Chair and the above-named CIE members attended a number of that committee’s meetings through the summer of 2010, and the committee subsequently made a number of specific recommendations to enhance the international education at UCR. At the Academic Senate Division meeting in the Fall of 2010, the Chancellor strongly felt that UCR needs to go from having less than 1% of undergraduate students as International Students up to 8% by 2014, and a committee has been formed to oversee its accomplishment with one of our members, Dr. Duffy, serving on it.

At its recent meeting in April 2011 the CIE discussed some of the issues international undergraduate students confront, such as the mechanism and procedures of registration and advising, and the challenge of writing classes. The hope is for students in Pathway Program to
be viewed differently from standard concurrent enrollment students so they may have more support in their advising. For the latter group, those in concurrent enrollment, they may be unable to get into classes and often feel they are being treated as second-class students. Students are not able to always articulate their matriculation category. Faculty members are not always aware of their concurrent enrollment status, nor are they always interested in working with the international students. All international students have special needs which the advisors need to be aware of. Members of the committee suggested getting a group of international faculty together for some training of advisors on how to deal with international students in their advising practice, perhaps something like a cross-cultural seminar for the advisors. Others proposed to have a concentrated “boot camp” for students in the Pathway Program where students would arrive a month early for better preparation and education on coping with these potential problems. It was also suggested that this committee could take the initiative to help faculty with resources, strategies, etc., to deal with these issues, and could also work on the academic advising issues and make recommendations to the Division Chair of the Academic Senate to forward to the Chancellor. The committee has decided to hold another meeting in mid-May devoted to this issue.

In the Winter quarter of this year, Dr. Ye served on the committee that made an off-site review of the UCEAP program in China. The committee had an hour-long conference call with both the Beijing and Shanghai SCD’s and then held a day-long meeting at UCLA, both in February, 2011, with the participation of Mary McMahon, UCEAP Regional Director for China, during part of the meeting, and Jean-Xavier Guinard, UCEAP Associate Vice Provost and Executive Director, through two conference calls. Prior to the review panel meeting, an information notebook on the Review goals, process and questions, reports of the Beijing and Shanghai Study Center Directors (SCD’s), host institutions, programs and options, data on enrollment by each UC campus, country, student academic major, ethnicity and gender was prepared and sent to the Committee for review. The committee completed its report and submitted it to the UCIE Chair last month, raising some of the committee’s concerns about the healthy development of the UCEAP programs in China, and making a number of detailed recommendations.

Piya Chatterjee (Women’s Studies)
Lucille Chia (History)
Jiri Simunek (Environmental Sciences)
Charles Wyman (Chemical & Environmental Engineering)
Sharon A. Duffy (GSOE; UNEX Dean)
Diane E. Elton (Director, International Education Center)
Bronwyn Jenkins-Deas (Director, UNEX IEP)
Thomas Perring (Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education)
David Ahn (ASUCR Representative)
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