To the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly:

The Subcommittee on International Education (SCIE) respectfully submits its report of activities for academic year 2010-11.

I. Committee Operations

Professor Volodymyr Bilotkach, Assistant Professor of Economics, served as Chair of SCIE and as UCI’s representative to the University Committee on International Education (UCIE) in 2010-11. SCIE met in Fall Quarter and in Spring Quarter to provide comments and advice on issues concerning international education.

SCIE, a joint subcommittee of the Council on Educational Policy (CEP) and the Graduate Council (GC), provides academic policy oversight on all matters concerned with the University of California Education Abroad Program (EAP) and other formal educational activities of UC Irvine students abroad, such as UCI Travel-Study and the International Opportunities Program (IOP); faculty exchanges between UCI and foreign universities; and other academic issues involving international education as requested.

The University Committee on International Education (UCIE) oversees all academic aspects of the UC Education Abroad Program (EAP), including the regular formal review of existing programs, the review and approval of new programs, changes in programs, and all program courses and credits. UCIE also provides advice to the President on the appointment of study center directors.

II. Divisional Issues and Policies

A. Departmental International Student Exchange (DISE)

The Department of Biomedical Engineering has finalized the first Departmental International Student Exchange (DISE), using the template approved by SCIE and Graduate Council in 2007. More information about DISE is available on the CIE website, [http://www.cie.uci.edu/](http://www.cie.uci.edu/).

B. Center for International Education

Throughout the year, Faculty Director Glenn Levine and Associate Director Marcella Khelif informed SCIE about activities of the UCI Center for International Education. Although the numbers have dipped a little recently, over the past four years about 1000 UCI students have participated in study abroad. Of these, about half have taken EAP courses, about a third have taken UCI’s Summer Travel-Study courses, and the rest have enrolled in courses offered by non-UC institutions or private companies. While this figure is above the national average, it is below the goal set by UCI.
As part of CIE’s self-assessment for accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), focus group sessions were held with students who have studied abroad to hear their perspective on how it has benefited their education, their future careers, and/or their lives. A faculty focus group meeting was also scheduled to hear how study abroad has impacted their students.

C. Review of Summer Session Travel-Study Program in Italy

SCIE reviewed the report and recommendations on the Travel-Study Program in Italy prepared by Professor Stephen Barker (Department of Drama) in 2010, as well as Summer Session’s responses to his recommendations, and the self-study prepared by Summer Session and the host institution, the Accademia Dell’Arte. SCIE accepted the reports and had no further recommendations. (The formal review of the Italy program had been postponed from Summer 2009.)

No reviews are scheduled for 2011. The next review will be of the Cyprus program in 2012.

D. Revised Review Protocol for Summer Session Travel-Study Programs

The review process, which had been initiated by Summer Session and approved by SCIE in 2007, calls for a comprehensive self-study document prepared by Summer Session and the host institution, followed by an on-site visit by the main reviewer (a UCI faculty member, approved by SCIE). The reviewer conducts interviews and writes a report on his/her findings and recommendations, which is reviewed by SCIE. Although the inclusion of a second reviewer was considered helpful to the process when the review protocol was established, this person’s role was not spelled out and it has been a challenge to identify a second reviewer and give them an accurate charge.

In May 2011, SCIE decided to amend the Review Protocol to remove the second reviewer, with the rationale that when SCIE members review the reports in Fall quarter, they provide the “second set of eyes” to the report written by the primary reviewer. As an ex-officio member of SCIE, the Dean of Undergraduate Education could give advice and comments during the SCIE review.

SCIE and Summer Session also agreed that a regular review cycle would be useful. Although UNEX takes action whenever a program is having some difficulty and has cancelled programs when necessary, periodic reviews send a message to the partner institution that there is oversight and an ongoing expectation to fine tune the program to improve the overall academic experience. It was agreed that each Travel-Study program would be reviewed at least every five years.

III. Systemwide Issues

A. Appointment of Executive Director and Framework for Academic Oversight of UCEAP

Jean-Xavier Guinard, the new UC EAP Executive Director, visited UCI on November 1, 2010 and discussed upcoming issues with SCIE Chair Bilotkach and the CIE Faculty Liaisons.
A new position for a UCSB Faculty-in-Residence at the UCEAP Systemwide Office, funded at 50% time, is planned. SCIE considered a 50% position as less than optimal for the workload. Also, if the position were 100%, UC faculty from other campuses could apply.

On-site Academic Liaisons will be appointed for every country and/or program. For those programs that do not have an Academic Liaison in place, one will be appointed by 2014. SCIE recommended that the role of the Academic Liaisons should be delineated and an assessment conducted in 2 – 3 years to determine whether the positions are working as envisioned.

EAP has increased fees for some programs. In a comparison study conducted by CIE, it was found that the estimated off-campus living expenses for students studying at UCI for a semester were less than some of the EAP programs, but higher than others.

UC EAP has closed some programs due to declining enrollments and cost, has opened two new programs in Africa, and is considering other new programs, including several Summer EAP courses.

Submitted on behalf of the Subcommitee on International Education,

Volodymyr Bilotkach, Chair

2010-11 Subcommitee on International Education
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Michael Dessen, Arts
Edward Dimendberg, Humanities
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