To the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly:

The Subcommittee on International Education (SCIE) respectfully submits its report of activities for the academic year 2008-09.

I. Committee Operations

Jorge Busciglio, Associate Professor of Neurobiology & Behavior in the School of Biological Sciences, chaired the Subcommittee on International Education (SCIE) in AY 2008-09. SCIE is a joint subcommittee of the Council on Educational Policy (CEP) and the Graduate Council (GC). It met three times during the academic year and provided comments and advice on issues concerning international education.

Chair Busciglio also served as UCI’s representative to the University Committee on International Education (UCIE), which 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. UCI also provides advice to the President on the appointment of study center directors.

Throughout the year, the Directors of UCI’s Center for International Education – Faculty Director Glenn Levine and Administrative Director Marcella Khelif – kept SCIE informed of the activities of the Center, the Education Abroad Program (EAP), the Summer Session Travel-Study programs, and the International Opportunities Program (IOP).

II. Divisional Issues and Policies

A. Summer Session’s Travel-Study Programs

Dean Gary Matkin (Continuing Education), Molly Schneider (Associate Director of Summer Session), and Reid Warner (Program Manager) were invited to the Fall meeting to discuss current and future plans by Travel-Study programs. Existing programs are undergoing minor refinements for summer 2009 in response to faculty feedback and student evaluations. A second program in Japan is being planned for Doshisha University, Kyoto, that will offer courses in Anthropology, Economics, and History. A program in Volunteer Experience is being developed in response to requests from students. SCIE members also offered suggestions for future programs in certain disciplines and/or countries.

A two-day site visit of the Madrid, Spain program was conducted in summer 2008 by Professor Monica Majoli, Department of Studio Art. Dean Matkin obtained approval from then-SCIE Chair Matthew for Professor Majoli to substitute for Juli Carson, the original reviewer, who was unable to participate. SCIE evaluated the self-study materials prepared by Summer Session and Professor Majoli’s report, which was positive about the high level faculty and learning environment. Concerns expressed in her report were addressed by Summer Session for next year’s program. SCIE approved the report and its recommendations [in the absence of a quorum at the Winter meeting, the vote was conducted via e-mail].

The review of the Travel-Study program in Italy – Session I is planned for summer 2009. After consultation with the Acting Dean of the Arts, Dean Matkin submitted the nomination of three faculty
from the Department of Drama. SCIE approved Annie Loui as the on-campus reviewer and a senior faculty member to be the on-site reviewer. When that person became unavailable, Chair Busciglio approved Stephen Barker, who had also been recommended by Dean Terricciano.

By 2010 all of the Travel-Study programs will have had a site visit or, at a minimum, faculty feedback related to their experience. Both SCIE and Summer Session plan to consider possible improvements for the review process in Fall 2009.

B. International Tracks for Undergraduate Majors

Director Levine informed SCIE members about the establishment in some departments of a formal “International Track” for their undergraduate degree. Students who elect this track take certain courses at foreign universities, usually through an existing EAP site. Engineering has approved an alternate International Track and other departments and schools are considering similar arrangements.

C. Workgroup for Evaluating Third Party Providers of Study Abroad Programs

Directors Levine and Khelif requested the formation of a SCIE workgroup to develop academic criteria for evaluating third-party study abroad providers. When students seek alternatives to EAP and Travel-Study programs, CIE refers them to the International Opportunities Program (IOP), an umbrella for various programs offered by other universities, non-profit agencies, and for-profit companies. At present, the IOP programs are evaluated by CIE staff on non-academic grounds. CIE believes faculty confidence in the programs would be strengthened if the quality of each program’s curricula were evaluated using faculty-derived academic criteria.

Professor Bilotkach volunteered to serve on the workgroup with Directors Levine and Khelif. The workgroup will meet and report back to SCIE with proposed evaluation criteria. Once approved by SCIE, CIE would apply the academic criteria to evaluate program quality when advising students.

D. UCI Campus-wide Goals for International Education

Throughout the year, SCIE was kept informed of plans for enhancing communication among and about entities involved in international education. Members encouraged those involved to continue their development. The plans included the following:

The UCI Leadership Academy made “Fostering International Education” the subject of one of its capstone projects for 2008-09. Participants worked with Director Khelif to identify entities for the Hub for International Programs and Protocols (HIPP) and designed a website to link to the homepages of the identified organizations and topics. The results were presented in May 2009. CIE hopes to locate a campus office/department that would create and maintain the HIPP webpage.

The proposal to establish an Institute for International Education and Research is still in the planning stage. Both the UCI Strategic Plan for 2005-2015 and the Task Force on International Studies (July 2006) recommended the creation of a program or institute that would facilitate interaction among all entities at UCI engaged in international research and education.

E. Student Learning Outcomes for Study Abroad

In preparation for the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation, the Division of Undergraduate Education has prepared information on Student Learning Outcomes (SLO) and
means of assessing them. The CIE received positive feedback and suggestions from SCIE on the SLO and SLO Clusters they had drafted.

III. Systemwide Issues

A. Review of Education Abroad Program (EAP) Business Plan Proposal

President Yudof’s office informed EAP Acting Executive Director Cowan that a new business plan would need to be in place by Winter quarter 2009 and implemented over the next three years. The proposed business plan was sent to the Division Chairs for review and comment and presented at the University Committee on International Education (UCIE) meeting in November 2008.

SCIE sent comments on its concern about the short- and long-term consequences of the plan for the continued success of EAP. The Powerpoint presentation style provided insufficient description and analysis. Members were concerned that the plan to decentralize operations and for each campus to carry out EAP activities would not necessarily be more efficient and it was unclear what formula would be used to distribute the EAP funds among the campuses. The plan would eliminate approximately 2/3 of the study center directors, yet did not explain how the reductions would be decided or how effective academic oversight would be maintained at the study centers. Similarly, the plan proposed the phased elimination of local staff, without specifying how these cuts would be orchestrated. SCIE was very concerned that increasing the fees to reflect the programs’ actual costs would discourage participation in more expensive programs and would unfairly impact those students who do not receive financial aid to offset fee increases. In addition, since the fees would vary considerably among programs, many students would be forced to select a program based on cost instead of on program quality and academic objectives. As a public institution, this inequity was a serious concern to SCIE.

Council Chair Croughan sent President Yudof a memo on January 22, 2009, summarizing the reviews from the Divisions, UCIE, and Council. President Yudof convened a joint Senate-Administration Task Force to give more time to review the EAP Strategic Plan and related issues. A request for Divisional comment is expected after the Task Force report is received (anticipated in June 2009).

At the Spring 2009 meeting, Director Levine reported that even before the budget crisis, EAP has been undergoing reorganization. The funding model has been changed; fees paid by students attending EAP will go to the general fund of the student’s home campus for operating expenses (instead of to EAP, as they had in the past). Among the issues yet to be resolved are: the search for a permanent Director; in addition to significant staff reductions, the offices may be moved onto a campus; and a number of study center director positions may be eliminated.

IV. Continuing Issues

1. Comments on the Task Force Report on the EAP Strategic Plan and Budget;
2. Review of the UCI Summer Session Travel-Study program in Italy;
3. Improvements to the protocol for reviewing Summer Session Travel-Study programs; and
4. Findings and recommendations from the Workgroup on IOP academic criteria.

Submitted on behalf of the
Subcommittee on International Education,

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2008-09 Subcommittee on International Education
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Robin Buck, Arts
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