SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
ANNUAL REPORT
2012-13

To the Irvine Divisional Senate Assembly:


I. Committee Operations

In Fall quarter 2012, Richard Matthew, Professor of Social Ecology, served as Chair of SCIE and as UCI’s representative to the University Committee on International Education (UCIE). In Winter and Spring quarters 2013, Michael Dessen, Associate Professor of Music, served as Chair of SCIE and as UCI’s representative to the University Committee on International Education (UCIE). SCIE met in Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters 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. Suspension of Summer Travel Study Program

As announced on September 4, 2012, the UCI Summer Session Travel Study Program has been suspended indefinitely. This was necessitated by (a) suspension of the program by Cambridge, which had approximately 50% of the total enrollments; and (b) continuing declines in enrollment in the other programs. Several financial constraints are suspected as being the cause of the decrease in enrollments. As fees have gone up, enrollment in the Travel-Study programs have dropped. Students want to complete their degrees in as few quarters as possible. Students no longer may obtain Pell grants for summer programs. If economic conditions become more favorable in the future, the program could be reinstituted.

B. Study Abroad Center

Enrollments by UCI students in EAP programs are up 15% over last year. While the total number of students studying abroad is fewer than it was before the suspension of the UCI Summer Travel-Study programs, the upswing in EAP enrollments is encouraging.

More than 50% of UCI’s incoming freshmen are first generation college students. In the past, this group has been less likely to participate in study abroad programs. The Study Abroad Center is developing additional programs, particularly short-term programs, to be attractive to UCI students.
Throughout the year, Faculty Director Daniel Brunstetter and Associate Director Marcella Khelif informed SCIE about activities of the UCI Study Abroad Center. These include International Education Week, a successful event including lectures and a sold-out film screening of *Midnight In Paris*, and an ongoing "Brazil 2014" campaign that included soccer viewing events to raise interest among students in Brazil specifically and study abroad options generally.

C. Science Without Borders Program

Dean Leslie reported on the new Science Without Borders Initiative. In April 2012, UCI was approved as a host campus for graduate students in the Brazilian Science Without Borders program. Created by the Brazilian Ministry of Education in 2011 to promote future scientific research and innovation in Brazil, the program’s goal is to send 100,000 of their best undergraduate and graduate students to top universities around the world.

D. UCI Abroad White Paper

A White Paper to establish UCI Abroad was received by the Academic Senate in October 2012. Senate Chair Gilly asked each Council and SCIE to review and comment on what questions relating to its purview might be considered in a forthcoming formal proposal. SCIE members discussed their concerns about this proposal and identified issues that they felt should be addressed through further research. There was broad agreement that the proposal should address in more detail how the establishment of UCI Abroad would benefit UCI students and faculty. SCIE members felt that further clarifying this rationale is crucial in order to ensure that UCI Abroad remain consistent with the principles of a public institution and is not simply a vehicle for generating revenue. SCIE's concerns about UCI Abroad were expressed in detail in a memo to Chair Gilly for discussion by the Senate Cabinet on December 4, 2012.

E. DUE Report

Dean Salinger reported on the results of the DUE Report, “First Year Success Rates for International Students Entering UCI Fall 2011.” The report compares the background, academic preparation, and academic performance of Fall 2012 domestic, international, and International Undergraduate Preparation Program (IUPP) new entrants from high school. International students (including former IUPP students) performed significantly more poorly than domestic entrants in their first quarter at UCI. They passed fewer units, had a lower quarter GPA, and had a higher percentage of being placed on academic probation. Compared with other international students, IUPP students had a significantly higher quarter GPA, yet a greater likelihood of being placed on academic probation. Full details and statistics are available in the DUE Report.

F. Middle Eastern Studies Major

Dean Salinger reported that progress is being made on the design of the new major in Middle Eastern studies. The curriculum will include course offerings in every school.

III. Systemwide Issues

A. Director Guinard: UCEAP Enrollment and Funding

Jean-Xavier Guinard, Executive Director of the University of California Education Abroad Program (UCEAP), visited UCI on March 5. He met individually with SCIE Chair Dessen and with CIE
Faculty Liaisons, and attended SCIE's meeting to discuss recent EAP developments and to hear general ideas and concerns from SCIE members.

For the past three years, UCEAP has been operating under a new financial model, which draws revenues from student fees. The State subsidy will end and EAP will be expected to be self-funded by 2015-16.

During the last three years, there has been a slight decline in EAP enrollments. Enrollments have decreased in the year-long programs, have remained about the same in the quarter/semester programs, but have increased for summer programs. It is believed that this is due to student desire to finish their degrees in four years and the misperception that EAP costs more than regular tuition and fees.

Director Guinard also discussed UCEAP's revenue sharing model. Last year, UCEAP shared some of the collected tuition funds with the UC campuses, but at UCI those funds are allocated by the EVC's office, which means that they may or may not be used to support study abroad. In addition, EAP retained some tuition funds and allocated them towards increasing study abroad scholarship allocations. In particular, there has been an effort to increase enrollment in STEM programs.

**B. Increase in UCEAP Program Option Fees**

With both Director Guinard's visit and in Chair Dessen's reports on the UCIE meetings in March and May at UCOP in Oakland, SCIE had opportunities to discuss the recent increase in student fees that has been instituted by UCEAP. UCEAP has increased student fees from $600 to $900 per student, in effect spreading the cost of Program Option Fees for the more expensive programs among all students. The debate was whether students who enroll in the programs with higher Program Option Fees should be fully responsible for paying those fees themselves, or whether the excess cost should be spread partially or fully among all EAP students. The decision made by the UCEAP Governing Committee and endorsed by UCIE at the Oakland meeting after extensive discussion was to find a compromise by raising the EAP fee that all students pay by $300. Students in expensive programs will still need to pay an additional fee, but it will not be as high as it would otherwise after this change. The logic of UCEAP's decision, endorsed by UCIE, was that as a public institution it is important to make student fees as even as possible so that students have access to a wider range of programs. This change is also necessary because the financial model of EAP has changed and EAP is expected to be self-sustaining by 2016.

SCIE members voiced concerns about why the more expensive programs were approved at the outset and whether it is in the academic interests of the students to keep them. Higher fees overall may impact students ability to afford UCEAP.

**C. Other UCIE actions and updates**

Chair Dessen provided the following additional reports from UCIE's meetings in Oakland in March and May:

- UCIE members reviewed reviews of existing programs and reviewed several new program proposals from EAP, in some cases sending comments back to EAP requesting revisions to new programs' proposed syllabi to ensure that the quality of academic instruction remains commensurate with UC standards.
- UC Online is working towards offering gateway courses online, especially in STEM fields, so that students may take them while abroad and not fall behind in their compulsory coursework.
- In response to concerns raised earlier by UCIE members about the academic oversight of EAP programs run by Third-Party Providers, Director Guinard provided detailed results of a study of Third-Party Provider companies. After viewing the results of the study, which drew especially on extensive student course evaluations, UCIE members concurred with Director Guinard that there was not a significant difference in academic quality in the current Third-Party Provider programs.
UCIE has requested to be included in the upcoming 3-year performance review of UCEAP Executive Director Jean-Xavier Guinard, who reports to the Office of the President. At present, the participants in the review will be the UC Provost, the UCSB EVC, and the UCEAP Governing Committee. UCIE will raise the Senate’s role.

D. Faculty Engagement

In recent years, UCEAP has changed the traditional model of faculty engagement, in part by reducing two-year Study Center Director appointments and increasing the use of shorter term Visiting Scholar positions. In SCIE meetings as well as UCIE meetings, members continued to question whether UCEAP’s new structures risk leading to less faculty involvement and oversight, and may also reduce the possibilities for faculty to return to campus as advocates for a particular program. Although these structural changes were instituted for budgetary reasons and are now well-established, both SCIE and UCIE registered concerns that the new self-supporting model of UCEAP must continue to ensure that UC faculty participate as fully as possible in education abroad, and that the input of program reviewers and Faculty Advisory Committees be a central element in core decisions about EAP programs. In meetings with SCIE and UCIE, Director Guinard expressed his commitment to these principles of faculty involvement and shared governance, and reported that he has made efforts to visit all of the campuses personally this year to increase engagement with faculty.

Submitted on behalf of the
Subcommittee on International Education,

Michael Dessen, Chair

2012-13 Subcommittee on International Education
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