

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION
Annual Report 2008-2009

To the Academic Senate, Santa Cruz Division:

The Committee on International Education (CIE) met twice per quarter in 2008-09, twice as often as in the previous year. During fall and winter quarters, the committee spent most of its time discussing and critiquing the Universitywide Office of the Education Abroad Program (UOEAP) Business Plan Proposal submitted by UOEAP Director Michael Cowan. The proposal reflected the severe cuts (50%) to UOEAP that Director Cowan was facing and also UCOP's plan to reduce UOEAPs general fund budget from \$20M to \$4M over 3 years. To accommodate this reduction, Director Cowan proposed that several EAP programs be cut entirely and that many study center directorships be eliminated. Implicit in the proposal was the idea that the various UC campuses would rely increasingly on third-party programs, many of which have little or no academic oversight or course control.

CIE members were not generally supportive of Cowan's business plan: it presumed that retrenchment and reduction was the best way to go, without exploring the possibility of expansion through entrepreneurship. CIE felt that UOEAP should strive to retain its worldwide presence by itself becoming a third-party provider to the California State system and perhaps also to nearby campuses in Oregon, Nevada, and Arizona. On the positive side, CIE supported Cowan's idea that instructional funds should go directly to UOEAP or to the campuses to promote EAP and other international programs.

In March 2009, the new Office of International Education (OIE) Director George Barlos began to sit with the committee. He provided regular updates on the projects being undertaken by his office, and his goals for expanding and increasing the levels of service provided by the Office of International Education in the face of further cuts to OIE's budget.

During spring quarter the committee discussed a wave of EAP program closures that occurred. It was quite clear from the spring UCIE meeting in Oakland that Director Cowan had made these decisions without prior consultation with the campus CIEs. UOEAP was not able to provide any clear criteria to explain the various program closures or to provide convincing information as to how the decisions were made. Both the campus CIE and the UCIE view this as an unacceptable lack of transparency in the decision-making process that needs to be addressed in 2009-10. CIE would like to see a comprehensive strategy regarding closures that speaks specifically to academic goals and costs. The criteria appear to be program cost, redundancy and low enrollments, but a formal set of metrics would be useful.

In March 2009, Interim Provost Pitts announced a joint Senate-Administrative Task Force to review and offer advice on the program's long-term design and business model. At the committee's final spring meeting, CIE discussed the preliminary draft report submitted by the Task Force. Overall, the committee had few problems with the recommendations, but did provide EAP Faculty Director Sharp with some specific feedback that he agreed to incorporate into his formal response to the draft report.

CIE also provided feedback on the “Principles for Non-resident Enrollment” proposal by BOARS.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Michael Hutchison

Mary Flannery, NSTF

Debra Lewis

Armin Mester

Buchanan Sharp, *ex officio*

Mark Cioc, Chair

September 25, 2009