To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

The Committee on International Education (CIE) met eight times over the course of the academic year to carry out its duties (three times in fall quarter, three times in winter, and twice in spring).

Membership of the Committee on International Education:

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair and UCIE Rep Sociology
David E. Berenstein Physics
Shane R. Jimerson Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology
Kalju Kahn Chemistry and Biochemistry
Miriam J. Metzger Communication
Eric L. Prieto French and Italian
Allan Stewart-Oaten Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology
Heather M. Stoll Political Science
Mian Wang Education
Juan E. Campo (Ex officio) EAP Campus Director, Religious Studies
Eleanor G. Freund Associated Students Rep
Marsha G. Bankston (Consultant) Acting Registrar
Mary Jacob (Consultant) Director, Office of International Students & Scholars

Survey of Undergraduate International Students

In spring, the Committee on International Education commissioned a survey of undergraduate international students, in conjunction with the Office of International Students & Scholars (OISS). The survey was administered through the Social Science Survey Center and Benton Survey Research Laboratory, with funding from OISS, the Office of Admissions, and the Executive Vice-Chancellor’s Office. The survey was distributed (via email) to 230 undergraduate international students, with completed responses received from 42%.

In summary, the report found the following: “…most international students have had a positive experience at UCSB, and reported high levels of satisfaction with their experience overall, as well as with most of the specific aspects of their experience. However, many international students specifically expressed dissatisfaction with course availability.”

While most international students encountered no more than moderate difficulties with the issues listed in the survey, the major concerns were: finding affordable housing, adjusting to the quarter system, academic expectations, and finding classes. For example, students reported that they wanted more chances to work on research projects with professors, and the CIE strongly urges the campus to see what can be done to increase such opportunities for all undergraduate students.
Students generally reported high feelings of preparedness and integration, as well as a high probability of recommending UCSB to peers back home. From the cross-tabulations, it can be seen that more European students would “definitely” recommend UCSB than students from China, Korea and Taiwan.

Because the survey was completed near the end of the 2010 academic year, the committee was not able to thoroughly analyze the data. A complete analysis and recommendations will be completed by next year’s committee.

**Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for UCEAP**

In February, CIE reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between UCSB and the UC Office of the President (UCOP) regarding the administrative partnership with regard to the UC Education Abroad Program (UCEAP).

The committee supported the recommendations by EAP Campus Director Juan Campo in his memo to the Executive Vice Chancellor. In particular, the committee supported the suggestion to allocate an office on campus for the EAP director (preferably close to the campus EAP office), the recommendation to appoint a Faculty Assistant/Advisor (academic title TBD) for UCEAP, and the idea for an academic affiliation for the UCEAP Director with a UCSB department. CIE strongly supported the suggestion that the UCEAP Director reporting line would “… report to the Provost of the University of California or his UCOP designate.”

The committee made specific comments on several areas of the MOU, including the sections on budgetary and administrative policy, academic policy, guiding principles, budget, administrative support, and academic support. The MOU was signed by UC President Yudof and UCSB Chancellor Henry Yang on May 4, 2011.

**Proposed Policy on Self-Supporting Graduate Degree Programs**

In fall, the Committee on International Education reviewed the proposed revision to the 1996 Policy on Self-Supporting Part-Time Graduate Professional Degree Programs and its Implementation Guidelines. CIE noted that self-supporting programs (SSPs) may involve international students, but these are mentioned only in passing by the policy proposal in describing the SSP target of “non-traditional population” to include “full-time employees, mid-career professionals, international students, and/or students supported by their employers.” No further mention was made of this population in the policy, nor in the other documents. It may be that no major issues are likely to arise with international students.

However, CIE was concerned that the authors of the policy revisions may not have had enough time to consider such issues as the number and quality of international students likely to be attracted to SSPs, or the effects of SSPs on other UC international programs or agreements. Further, it was not clear to CIE how departments would be remunerated for offering SSPs. On
the surface, CIE did not see any obvious connection between this issue and international students, but there could be one. Finally, the committee strongly supported equal fees for all students, resident or non-resident, as there is no state funding involved with SSPs.

International Agreements

The committee continued to discuss its role in reviewing international agreements. In November the committee requested from the Executive Vice Chancellor (EVC) a current listing of what agreements exist between UCSB (including faculty and departments) and international institutions. In response, CIE received a list of agreements that were recorded by the EVC’s office. It was admitted that there may be agreements that exist but were not reported to the EVC.

This highlighted a concern by CIE regarding a lack of campus procedures or guidelines for the review and approval of new international agreements. It was reported that Academic Senate staff have been working with the EVC’s office to develop a draft set of procedures that will be reviewed by CIE when they are available.

International agreement with Basque Institute

The Committee on International Education reviewed only one proposed international agreement this year, between UCSB’s Department of Spanish & Portuguese and the Etxepare Basque Institute. CIE supported the proposed association with the Basque Institute from an academic standpoint. Created as an official Institute by the Basque government in 2009, its aim is to disseminate and promote the Basque language. Although it is a new Institute, it is the official arm of the Basque government to promote studies in Basque and will essentially set the standards for Basque instruction all over the world.

Nonetheless, the committee raised some questions regarding the details of the document, including some apparent discrepancies in the translation. Although also outside the purview of the Committee, CIE also raised some concerns regarding the level of student interest in proposed classes.

Name change for English as a Second Language Program

The Committee on International Education reviewed the proposal to change the name of the English as a Second Language (ESL) Program to “English for Multilingual Students Program” in October. The committee supported this change. The committee felt that the program name change may have a positive impact on attracting students who could benefit from its services. Furthermore, the committee noted that the name change would more accurately describe all the students that it serves, for example students who are tri-lingual or for whom English is neither their first nor second language.
Subcommittee Report on Non-National Graduate Students

The committee discussed the report of the ad hoc Subcommittee on Non-resident Tuition for Non-national Graduate Students, which convened spring 2010. The final report was submitted summer 2010. The committee supported its recommendations. In particular, CIE supported the proposal to waive tuition for non-national graduate student TAs and RAs.

In fall quarter, the committee shared the report and raised these issues with both EVC and the Assistant Chancellor for Budget and Planning during their subsequent visits. CIE was informed that the campus has a goal to increase the total number of all non-resident students (who pay higher tuition), including international students. In the 2010-11 academic year approximately 5% of the freshman class were non-residents, most of whom were domestic students. Benefits to the campus for enrolling non-residents include: increased tuition (fees) that directly benefit the campus; high performing students; increased diversity; and benefits to the state’s economy (many stay in CA after graduating). It was also noted that non-residents are not displacing California students, since the number enrolled is less than the number of students for whom the state pays support. That is, the University is currently educating more students than the state is funding.

While the committee felt that UCSB administrators were amenable to the concerns identified in the report, it ultimately decided not to take further action at the moment, given the budgetary situation.