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).

**Purpose**

As per the Academic Senate by-laws, the committee’s purpose is “To provide advice and consent on all matters of international education and exchange, including practice that impacts exchange students and scholars.”

**Membership of the Committee on International Education:**

Kalju Kahn, Chair & UCIE Rep Chemistry & Biochemistry
David Berenstein Physics
Kum-Kum Bhavnani Sociology
Jenny Cook-Gumperz Education
Shane Jimerson Counseling, Clinical, & School Psychology
Eric Prieto French & Italian
Todd M. Squires Chemical Engineering
Allan Stewart-Oaten Emeritus, Ecology, Evolution & Marine Biology
Heather Stoll Political Science
Mian Wang Education

Juan Campo (Consultant) EAP Campus Director, Religious Studies
Mary Jacob (Consultant) Director, Office of International Students & Scholars
Marsha Bankston (Consultant) Acting Registrar

Alexa Cover Undergraduate Student Rep
Kara Otto Graduate Student Rep
Survey of Undergraduate International Students

In July, the Committee on International Education presented its final report on the survey of undergraduate international students to Gene Lucas (Executive Vice Chancellor), Michael Witherell (Vice Chancellor for Research), and Chris VanGieson (Director of Admissions). In addition, copies were also widely distributed to Deans and various other campus administrators.

The student survey was administered in spring of 2011 through the Social Science Survey Center & Benton Survey Research Laboratory, with funding from the Office of International Students & Scholars, 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%. The survey afforded a number of insights into this population of students, and from these the committee offered a series of recommendations. The committee’s report included a presentation with the major findings and the survey analysis by the Social Science Survey Center.

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.

Guidelines for International Agreements

The committee continued to be concerned by the 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.

Confucius Institute at UCSB

The Committee of International Education reviewed a proposal to establish the Confucius Institute at UCSB in March. Members of CIE voiced overall support for the proposal but also highlighted some concerns, which the committee felt needed to be clarified before the agreement with Hanban is established. (Hanban is the Chinese National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language, of which the Confucius Institutes are one program.) CIE agreed that there is
a demonstrated need to strengthen the Chinese language instruction at UCSB, and an initiative like the Confucius Institute with the recruitment of a Chinese language instructor from Shandong University would be a good solution. CIE noted the letters of support suggest a strong and broad-based support from many interested parties.

CIE felt that UCSB was in a good position to implement a successful model when partnering with Hanban. Some CIE members expressed initial concerns over issues such as the exercise of soft power and guaranteeing academic freedom. However, CIE’s questions largely reflected the lack of clarity in the provided documentation. Primary concerns were expressed regarding operational and budgetary issues as well as translation questions about the proposal itself. Secondary concerns were also shared by a minority of committee members vis-à-vis the role of the Chinese government in the management of the Confucius Institute as well as the risk of direct interference with UCSB’s academic mission.

Fudan University: Proposed Agreement

In May the Committee on International Education reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fudan University of China and the UCSB Center for Materials Research. Overall, the committee was supportive of the agreement. However, CIE expressed some concerns regarding the student exchange component of the proposal, specifically with regard to housing accommodations and health insurance arrangements. CIE offers its endorsement of this proposal under the condition that these concerns are addressed.

University of Science & Technology of China

In May, the committee reviewed a proposed agreement with the University of Science & Technology of China (USTC). Overall, the committee was supportive of the agreement. However, CIE expressed some concerns regarding the student exchange component of the proposal.

In particular, CIE was unclear regarding the mechanism by which visiting students would be accepted to our campus. UCSB lacks a clear procedure to enroll non-degree, non-EAP international students. Would these students enroll through Extension? If not, then how? Specifically, the committee was concerned about the visiting students’ ability to access appropriate facilities, especially Health Services.

CIE offered its endorsement of this proposal under the condition that these concerns be addressed.

Kazakh National University

In June, the Committee on International Education reviewed the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Al Farabi Kazakh National University in Almaty, Kazakhstan. CIE agreed that the proposal was well thought-out and offered its endorsement of the agreement.
Academic Oversight of UCEAP

In May, the Committee sent a letter endorsing Ann Plane’s document “Academic Oversight of UCEAP”. The issues related to the academic oversight of UCEAP have been of acute concern to the committee for the last few years. CIE was pleased that the key recommendations from broad faculty input were incorporated into the final document. In particular, CIE noted that the role of UCIE as the primary oversight body for all academic aspects of UCEAP was clearly outlined.