

International Studies Self Study

December 2009

Section I.

The International Studies Program at UCI has made tremendous strides with limited resources. It serves over 800 undergraduate majors, and is affiliated with over 50 graduate students in departments spread over three different schools (humanities, social sciences and social ecology) and faculty across the university. It houses a calendar of all international events at UCI on its website, hosts bi-weekly International Studies Public Forums, monthly research seminars, and a quarterly “Meet the Diplomat” series. It hosts faculty lunch groups to encourage collaboration and cooperates with its 17 affiliated research centers across the campus on countless other events from large conferences to smaller workshops and lectures.

UCI’s International Studies Program was last reviewed in 2003. At that time the review team noted growth and dynamism in the program but noted some deficiencies in its curriculum (particularly in language) and in its organization (as a program housed in Social Sciences but with clear ties to the humanities). It suggested a review of the curriculum, a strengthening of coordination and cooperation between the Social Sciences and the Humanities, and the creation of an Institute of International Studies to both facilitate teaching and act as a hub for all research and training on international affairs and globalization and a home for the existing centers focused on these issues.

The School of Social Sciences successfully hired a new director of International Studies (Deborah Avant) who arrived in mid-2007. Since that time, much effort has been devoted to strengthening coordination and cooperation with the schools of Humanities and Social Ecology (with representatives from both sitting on the IS governing council). The curriculum has been overhauled to both reflect best practices among international affairs programs generally and take advantage of the wide variety of offerings in Social Sciences, Humanities and Social Ecology at UCI. The revisions included a strengthened language requirement, the addition of an economics requirement to ensure that IS graduates are competitive in MA and PhD programs, and the requirement that students focus on both a region and a functional specialty (such as “global conflict and conflict resolution” or “global trade, investment and finance”). Students have begun to respond to the changes and the number of IS majors – which had dipped a bit mid-decade to the low 600s – now stands at 809 (See Appendix 1).

In addition, the School of Social Sciences launched a new center for Research on International and Global Studies (RIGS) to act as a hub for research in international and global issues. The new organization has connected with 150 faculty across the campus and over 50 graduate students. It has upgraded the International Studies Public Forum, introduced additional unique activities (research seminar series, meet the diplomat series and lunch groups, as mentioned above) and cooperates regularly with its 17 affiliated research centers to support their internationally oriented lectures and conferences.

Section II.

1. The IS program includes an undergraduate major in International Studies (see Appendix 2), the International Studies Public Forum (a bi-weekly speaker series), a minor in Conflict Resolution, two certificate programs, an International Peace and Conflict theme house, an International Studies Honors Society and a center, RIGS. In addition IS and RIGS are affiliated with 17 research centers at UCI that also have international or global concerns. We are in the process of creating an IS minor.

Since 2007 the IS program has been administered by Deborah Avant, with one program manager (Mike Roesler) and work study interns. As of fall 2009 we also have one PhD student who serves as TA to the ISPF and hire two others hourly to help with graduate involvement in RIGS programming and coordination of the theme house.

IS operates with the advice of a governing council (Deborah Avant *International Studies/Political Science*, Victoria Beard *Planning Policy and Design*, Paula Garb *Anthropology Adjunct*, Michelle R. Garfinkel *Economics*, Anne Hironaka *Sociology*, William Maurer *Anthropology*, Kenneth L. Pomeranz *History*, Wayne Sandholtz *Political Science*) and in cooperation with 21 departments and 17 research centers.

The formal governance of International Studies and RIGS is through the governing council and in keeping with the governance rules of UCI more generally. The governing council provides feed back on research and curricular issues. Given the non-departmental nature of international studies faculty are involved in instructional resource allocation and service on an informal basis.

Faculty affiliated with RIGS and IS (see Appendix 3) – virtually anyone at UCI with a research or teaching profile that includes international or global issues – are a stellar group reflective of the high quality of UCI faculty more generally. RIGS has endeavored to encourage more interaction among this group and present it as a group to the international affairs community outside of UCI.

- We revamped our website to connect with relevant faculty and programs throughout the university: <http://internationalstudies.ss.uci.edu/>
- We host a calendar of all events with an international/global focus on our website
- We collaborate with our affiliated research centers and programs on events
- We host a bi-weekly International Studies Public Forum to showcase renowned speakers on international/global issues (many times in collaboration with other departments and/or centers).
- With the help of the external affairs staff at the School of Social Sciences we keep track of faculty and center accomplishments and send out a yearly e-newsletter to faculty at and outside of UCI.
- We have begun to encourage faculty collaboration in research with limited funds by:

- Hosting a monthly research seminar series for presentation of works in progress by UCI or outside faculty (with graduate student discussants).
- Funding 5 lunch groups for faculty interested in similar research topics in 08-09 and, in
- Calling for proposals from faculty for efforts at collaborative research funding in 09-10.

The working relationship between IS and the home departments of faculty are generally quite positive.

There are three sources of funds that IS/RIGS draws on (see Appendix 4): funds from the Dean's office; funds from the administration for an Inter-disciplinary program (IDP) for international studies, conflict and conflict resolution, and funds allocated to the center – RIGS – by the Dean of Social Sciences.

Funds from the Dean's office (administered by the Dean's office) support staff, adjunct faculty and equipment.

Funds from the IDP support the International Studies Public Forum (a bi-weekly speaker series and associated class), the International Peace and Conflict House, the International Studies Honors Society, and some adjunct teaching in conflict resolution.

Funds from RIGS support the monthly research seminar series and activities to encourage collaborative research on international/global issues and identification with the IS program.

2. There is no MA program in international affairs. With the Dean's encouragement we have drafted a proposal for an MA in International Affairs/Global Governance. We may move forward with this proposal in the future if we are able to access resources for an additional faculty member (see below). At the PhD level, the Director and the Governing Council believe international/global emphases are best dealt with in the association disciplines. Anthropology and Sociology are already quite strong here and the Political Science Department is in the process of revising and strengthening the sub-field of International Relations in Political Science.

Section III.

1. The strength of UCI's IS program is the range of faculty and interests it represents. These go beyond a typical focus on area studies and relations between states to include analyses of global social movements and the role of non-state actors as well as examining a range of policy arenas such as education, money, migration and health. The weaknesses are relatively few faculty members in political science and a relatively diffuse organizational structure. With the curriculum reform, we have begun to take advantage of UCI's strength. If we are

not able to access additional resources, we propose to consolidate the progress we have made:

- a. Continue with efforts to create a minor in international studies.
 - b. Work in informal ways with RIGS activities to generate a greater sense of IS identity among faculty.
 - c. Solidify positions for graduate students to help with the International Studies Public Forum and RIGS activities.
 - d. Continue to work with administrators in the Social Sciences and beyond and affiliated centers to solidify the role of RIGS as a university hub on international and global issues – including applying to be a campus center or organized research unit (ORU).
2. As the budget crisis passes and resources become available, three kinds of resources could dramatically improve the capacity of IS at UCI: resources for additional faculty, resources to harness faculty effort for IS, and resources for additional staff.

Additional Faculty: We have one (frozen) line already. It is designated to hire in international political economy, an area the political science department has long wanted and indeed an area of weakness in the program. The program could also benefit from several additional faculty.

- a. First, our review of other MA programs and the strength of the UCI faculty led us to investigate the potential for an MA in International Studies/Global Governance. This would be a unique program in California – and indeed in the US more generally. To move forward, however, we would need at least one new tenure track faculty member in Global Governance.
- b. Second, there is significant student and community interest in the Middle East and one certificate (OTI) requires attention from someone who knows the Middle East. Currently all classes on the politics of the Middle East are provided by one adjunct. We could also benefit from a tenure track faculty member focused on the Middle East.
- c. Third, the minor in Conflict Resolution, the certificates and a good part of the concentration in Conflict and Conflict Resolution are dependent on one adjunct faculty member (Paula Garb). We would benefit from a tenure track faculty member to help in this area.
- d. Finally, one additional faculty member who could address one of many deficiencies in African politics, civil war/terrorism, or the politics of development would also be welcome.

Resources to Harness Faculty Energy for IS: The second would be resources to encourage faculty involvement in International Studies. Though IS has 150 affiliated faculty, all have commitments to their home departments as well as to IS. Summer research money, travel money, seed grants, research assistance, and the like could help encourage broader faculty participation in teaching service classes for IS (including the introductory series and the IS honors course as well as developing new courses for specific focus fields) and participating in various service commitments.

Additional Staff: Finally, as is the case with many units at UCI, the program could put additional staff resources to good use. Our dream would be to hire an executive director. Many similar centers – including the Burkle Center at UCLA – have an executive director to manage its relations with other organizations, manage events, coordinate efforts among the staff, graduate students and undergraduate work study students, and spearhead grant writing and other fundraising efforts.

3. N/A
4. Our new curriculum for the IS major and designs for a minor and perhaps eventually a MA reflect what we see as the growing trend toward looking at international affairs not just as a collection of nations but as a global political and social sphere. UCI has many faculty members whose research and teaching already falls within this trend. We are on a strong upward trajectory already. Any additional resources will only help accelerate UCI's path to be a serious player in international studies and global governance.

Appendix 2: Requirements for the International Studies major

Requirements for the International Studies major are as follows:

- One four course core sequence:
INTLST 11 (Global Culture and Society), INTLST 13 (Global Economics), INTLST 14 (Introduction to International Relations/Global Politics), and either HIST 21B or C (World History or Modern World History)
- ECON 20A-B (Micro and Macro Economics)
- SOCSCI 5D "US & World Geography" or SOCIOL 2 "International Sociology"
- Two years of a language other than English. Competency is established by college level course work equivalent to the UCI's sixth quarter of study (usually 2C.)
- Regional Focus¹: Four courses focused on one of the following geographic areas from at least two different disciplines (e.g. political science, sociology, history, economics etc.) and including material on at least two different countries:
 - Europe and Eurasia
 - Africa and the Middle East
 - The Americas (including the US)
 - Asia
- Functional Focus: Four courses in one of the following areas from at least two different disciplines (e.g. political science, sociology, history, economics etc.):
 - Global Security
 - Global Conflict and Conflict Resolution
 - International/Comparative Law
 - International/Transnational Organizations and Movements
 - Global Ethics and Human Rights
 - Global Identities: Religion, Nationalism, Gender
 - Global Trade, Investment and Finance
 - Global Development, Public Health, & Environment
 - Global Population, Migration, and Diaspora
- Two quarters of SOCSCI 183A "International Studies Public Forum"(one of which must be taken during senior year as a capstone experience).
- At least one quarter of international experience. Majors are encouraged to study abroad through the Education Abroad Program (EAP) or the International Opportunities Program (IOP), which are available for periods of a quarter, semester, year, or summer. When this is not possible, work overseas (through IOP) or a domestic internship with the UCDC Internship Program, the Washington D.C. Center Program, or the Social Science Internship Program (Social Science 197) with an international focus may be substituted. Study abroad counts as course in the regional focus.