Notes from Department Chairs Meeting, June 20, 2006

The Associate Dean, Dean, Department Chairs, and the Director of Resource Management met from 10:00 AM-11:20 PM.

Kathy Krentler, Sandi Williams, and Teresa Donahue asked to meet with us about a study abroad issue. Many of the schools that we would like to partner with are three-year universities that offer courses that the Chairs will articulate with our upper division courses. However, if the partner university offers this course as a first or second year class, Enrollment Services will only transfer the course as a lower division course. Thus, we can waive the requirement for the course from SDSU, but since the transferred units are considered lower division by Enrollment Services, there are still requirements for upper division units in the major. Apparently, other colleges on campus also have this problem.

The Chairs discussed this issue and asked Sandi to research some other comparable public instructions to see how they handle this issue. Since study abroad is a high priority for the Provost, Sandi will provide this information to Gail to share with the other Deans. In the meantime, the Chairs will think about possible options for students so that they are not penalized in having to take more units if the courses that they wish to take while on exchange are counted as lower division.

Gail received a request from Provost to consider a proposal to move back convocation a week so that more faculty would be able to attend. Jim had asked the Chairs to poll their faculty. Across the college, the net result is that moving back the date a week would not have result in a significant change in faculty attendance.

Sanjay Varshnay (CBA Dean from CSU Sacramento) had polled the CSU Deans asking about their support for faculty development through travel, grants, teaching loads, and additional funds. He compiled a summary matrix by each campus. Jim shared it with the Chairs, and has asked Nancy K. to post it on the College Communications web page.

The Chairs discussed recruiting efforts for this year and the financial support that comes with an offer to a candidate. The college currently supplies to the departments a budget for moving expenses, office furniture, computer equipment, and research support. Additional funds needed beyond what the college provides have to be provided by the department. The Chairs agreed that increasing the research support in the budget from $7,500 per year to $10,000 per year could help recruiting. Deb said we could fit this within the budget. The Chairs also requested that rather than have separate budgets for each item, that they be allowed to work with the total and figure out how that could be best distributed to fit the candidateís personal needs.

The Provost is on a panel to review Cornerstones, the System plan developed and adopted in the late 1990s. This discussion is intended to form the basis of a new System planning activity, which will begin to be discussed at the Executive Council the following week. She was seeking feedback from the Deans on their opinions and suggestions about
the plan. Jim sent the plan to the Chairs for feedback to Gail. The most knowledgeable person on Cornerstones is retired Assistant Dean Pat Dintrone, whose comments were passed on to Gail.

Sharon has an interest from a faculty member who proposes to teach a graduate research methods class. It would be initially offered as a BA 696 class, so that all CBA graduate students could include it in their program of study if desired. As there are currently graduate research courses on the books, there was a question as to how this course might overlap or be different from current offerings. The Chairs agreed that a draft syllabus of the class should be circulated to the Chairs, so they can check with their faculty for any feedback, suggestions, or new topics that could be included in such a course before the proposal is submitted to the Graduate Committee.

In the equipment budget request, Sharon had requested furniture for making classroom logistics easier for doing group work. While we all liked the idea, the room she suggested (BA 439) last semester held classes from 4 of the 5 CBA departments and 2 departments outside the CBA. It was suggested that she contact faculty to assess the impact of changing the room configuration, and will also work with the room drawing to insure that class capacity would not be reduced. If things work out and faculty are not opposed, we will submit that request a year from now.