Notes from Department Chairs Meeting, July 18, 2006

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

Each week, the Advising Office issues an update on new upper division admits to the major. We are well behind a year ago at this time. However, Sandi Williams explained to Jim this could be attributable to the timing of the orientation session for CC transfer students. This year the orientation is in early August; previously it has been held in June. Thus, we are expecting to see the numbers increase after the August orientation and achieve a number of new upper division admits similar to a year ago.

Registration has begun. Continuing seniors start(ed last) Friday and juniors start next Wednesday. We have some idea of upper division demand by the end of this week. However, as the CC transfers who typically comprise about 60% of our upper division students do not register until the second week of August, we will not have the full picture of demand for core classes until that point.

There was a discussion about the number of new tenure-track (TT) positions for the 07/08 academic year. Gail will send a separate memo detailing the current situation.

We discussed the need to modify and enforce the teaching load policy. Awhile back Jim proposed a 3-year annual teaching load assignment; the Chairs preferred a year-to-year assignment. We discussed looking at a 3-year moving average of productivity to evaluate assigned time requests rather than the current 5-year model. While we expect to reduce teaching loads for faculty with strong professional growth records, the Provost expects tenured faculty who are not productive in their professional growth records to be put on 24-unit teaching loads. After census date in the Fall, Jim will work with Kelly to produce data and reports for the Chairs to use to reevaluate the teaching load policy.

Joe was contacted by a representative from aftercollege.com, an online job and internship resource center for college students. They are interested in establishing a customized link to their web site from the departmentsí web sites. The Chairs agreed this might be a good idea if it is a legitimate and helpful resource for students, and does not present a problem or conflict with Career Services. If we set this up, we agreed that it should be college-wide rather than by department, and that Aztec Business Alliance would be the best venue for the CBA. Jim will ask Chris Graham to look into this.

There was a discussion of whether departments should pay for Wall Street Journal subscriptions. The consensus was no. The Library receives a hard copy daily and an online version can be viewed through the Libraryís Factiva database. There is also a program that provides free subscriptions to faculty who have their class subscribe.