Notes from 12/20/11 Chairs/Directors Meeting

Present: Lightner, Shore, Salehizadeh, Belch, Plice, Krentler, Williams, Tomic, Cunningham (by phone), Singh

Absent: Varaiya, Ballam

Guest: Doiron

The entire meeting was dedicated to a discussion of the current budget. Three specific issues were addressed: using gifts to reduce a faculty’s workload; separating the evaluation and funding of sabbaticals; and managing the instructional budget. Dean Cunningham proposed that a gift of $15,000 from a donor is a reasonable sum to be used to support a faculty member, who wants to use 3-units of release time for research, curriculum development, or service (depending on the donor’s agreement). This sum will serve as the threshold, until the committee can agree on an alternative sum. Dean Cunningham reminded the committee that sabbaticals are funded with existing resources. Hence, each department should ensure that it can fund a sabbatical with existing faculty. At the same time, the merit of the sabbatical should be done separately. As the instructional budget (the portion used for lecturers) continues to decrease, each chair was encouraged to be vigilant. Spring 2012 schedule, while almost finalized, will undergo one more review. Summer and Fall of 2012 will be thoroughly assessed to ensure maximum coverage within budget. The committee will continue to work on this in the new year. The next meeting is scheduled for January 10th, 2012 from 9-11 in the DCR.

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On behalf of the Dean’s Office, thanks you for your support as we continue to build a best in class business school. Happy Holidays!

Gangaram