Notes from Chairs/Directors Meeting 11/17/12

Present: Shore, Belch, Plice, Salehizadeh, Whittenburg, Cunningham, Kawachi, Krentler, Varaiya, Probett

Absent: Perez

The meeting convened at 10AM in the DCR. The only item on the agenda was a progress report on the relationship between the ALI Program and the CBA. Dean Cunningham and AD Singh provided an update on a meeting they had with the ALI Program to discuss progress on managing the relationship. On the ALI front, a more streamlined approach is implemented to gather the demand for specific classes (which are articulated back to their home university). Once this demand is ascertained, special session classes will be offered to “guarantee” the ALI students a minimum of 2 courses (required to retain their visas). The ALI Program has also added advising staff to help with the management of the relationship. The goal is to reduce the impact on our regular classes. With lower demand in the Spring (in the ALI Program), and the assurance of 2 classes, the pressure on our regular classes will be reduced.

The system to add students to our regular classes is more complicated. Both ALI and our faculty have indicated that the system we used last semester did not help. The list of “wishers” was too long, and wishers wished too many sections which they dropped once they settled in. Each faculty also embraced the ALI students with a variety of approaches (not take them at all to take them liberally). A more streamlined approach involving an analysis of classes that will likely have empty seats, a more targeted approach to send only the appropriate number of qualified students (e.g., meet pre-requisite), and a faculty’s preference will be piloted in the Spring. The goal is to incrementally converge on a system that is optimal to our visiting guests (students), our faculty, ALI, and the CBA.

Most believe that the benefits of the ALI Program far outweigh the
manageable trouble. Our faculty and students have often highlighted the academic quality of our foreign student contingent. The Steering Committee, the Faculty Development Committee, and each chair will provide input on how these funds will be used to benefit our mission. The Committee appreciates the opportunity to work with ALI on this initiative.

The meeting adjourned at 11:30AM.

Gangaram