Chairs/Directors Committee Meeting
Minutes – March 4, 2014

Present: Joe Belch, David Ely, Gary Grudnitski, Davette Kawachi, Kathy Krentler, Robert Plice, Christine Probett, Larry Rhyne, Mehdi Salehizadeh, Gangaram Singh, Nik Varaiya

Guest: Alda Blanco

1. Minutes from the meeting on February 18, 2014, were approved.

2. Fulbright Program

Professor Alda Blanco, Campus Fulbright Adviser, Chair Spanish and Portuguese Language and Literature Department, described the opportunities for students to participate in the Fulbright US Scholar Program. Beyond positions as English teaching assistants, students may apply for scholar grants. These are more competitive and are usually awarded to graduate students engaged in research. Professor Blanco expressed her goal of expanding the number of SDSU students applying for scholar grants. She also seeks to raise the visibility of grants for faculty. For students to be accepted into the Fulbright Scholar Program, faculty need to provide encouragement, connections and guidance. Professor Blanco is available as a resource to help students write applications. Quality advising offered by faculty and the coordinator is why the Fulbright program has been successful at SDSU. Eleven SDSU students received grants last year. [The SDSU Fulbright home page is: http://go.sdsu.edu/oip/fulbright/Default.aspx ]

3. Receptions (Probett)

The Deans Recognition Event will be replaced by several Recognition Lunches to reward students in a friendly setting. These will be less expensive than a single large event.

The committee approved holding an Honors Reception at the Marriott in Mission Valley. For 200-300 attendees, the charge will be between $7,000 and $11,000. This is less expense than holding the event on campus and requires much less time and effort by staff to arrange. Graduate students as well as undergraduates will be invited. Each department will contribute around $1500.

The committee approved department-based Post Commencement Receptions, in part because no venue close to Viejas Arena is available that is large enough to accommodate all anticipated attendees. The Dean’s Office will cover venue expenses and departments will pay for food and beverages.

4. Executives in Residence

Executives in Residence Peter Shaw and Rod Lanthorne were introduced by Dean Singh and were welcomed by the committee. Mr. Shaw and Mr. Lanthorne provided some background on their careers and highlighted some of their past and current activities with the College. Faculty are encouraged to identify ways that they and their students can benefit from interacting with the Executives in Residence.

The next meeting will be March 25, 2014 at 9:15am in the Dean’s Conference Room.