Notes from Executive Committee Meeting, May 5, 2009

Present: Gail Naughton, Jim Lackritz, Sharon Lightner, Mehdi Salehizadeh, Bruce Reinig, Alex DeNoble, Joe Belch, Kathy Krentler, David Ely, Chris Graham, Mark Ballam

Invited guests: Robert Judge, Kelly Doiron

The Executive Committee met from 10:00-11:45 AM in the Electronic Boardroom.

Robert Judge gave a demonstration of Sharepoint. In the most recent Chairs meeting, Sharon and Bruce suggested that we evaluate Sharepoint to create a data storage site on a server that each faculty member could upload and download/change their CV and Schedule B. Kelly was invited to the meeting to observe the demonstration.

Robert showed some of the features that he uses on Sharepoint for his classes. There are many options available well outside of our accreditation needs.

Gail earlier emailed a communication from Michael Solt (CBA Dean, Long Beach) to the other CSU CBA Deans on the efforts to negotiate a CSU site license for WRDS and financial databases. Many accounting and finance faculty use the databases for their research, and not having them puts a school at a competitive disadvantage when recruiting. Mehdi put together a list of desirable databases for the Finance faculty. Together, their annual costs would be upwards of $100,000 per year. Other CBA faculty also have database needs for research purposes. Since Ethan told us that we do not spend nearly as much money on equipment as do other colleges, it was suggested that Gail ask Ethan to use the equipment budget for funding databases. Gail asked each chair to poll their faculty as to their database needs and to submit a list of desired databases and estimated annual costs. She will talk with Ethan about how much funding might be available.

The grad fee is on the CSU Board of Trustees Agenda for the May 12 meeting. Gail and three SDSU students will be attending the meeting to speak on behalf of the fee. The CSU Deans have been lobbying the trustees on the importance of the fee. The Chancellor has said that a vote will be taken on the fee.

There was going to be a proposal from the Steering Committee to eliminate the Steering Committee, but that changed at the meeting the previous day. Jim, Mehdi, and Alex gave a quick chronology of the discussion that had taken place.

Jim reported on behalf of the Maintenance of Accreditation Committee (MAC) the schools that the MAC proposed for our peer/aspirant list for AACSB. For peer schools, we selected schools that are similar in mission, size, and programs that „look‰ like us. The MAC proposed Cal Poly SLO, Kennesaw State University, Northern Illinois, University of Central Florida, and UNLV as candidates for peer schools from a rather extensive list.
For aspirant schools, we look at schools that have programs that have achieved successes we would like to achieve. Most schools that are ranked ahead of us in the US News & World Report rankings have doctoral programs and/or very small undergraduate enrollments and class sizes, neither of which would allow for fair comparisons as we go forward with our programs. The MAC initially proposed George Mason University, SUNY Buffalo, University of Kansas, and University of Louisville as candidates for aspirant schools. However, we took SUNY Buffalo and University of Kansas off the list, as both have doctoral programs. David had suggested DePaul, in that they have some excellent graduate programs while competing for students in the Chicago area against Illinois, University of Chicago, and Northwestern. Jim had Iowa State as a possible aspirant school, given their high ranking of their undergraduate program. Neither DePaul (a private university), or Iowa State (more rural than urban), were well-received by the committee. Jim said he was open to suggestions, but the aspirant list is a more difficult chore, due to the restricted parameters.