Notes from Executive Committee Meeting, October 20, 2009

Present: Gail Naughton, Jim Lackritz, Sharon Lightner, Mehdi Salehizadeh, Joe Belch, Kathy Krentler, David Ely, Mark Ballam, Sandy Ehrlich, Deb Tomic

The Executive Committee met from 10:00-11:20 AM in the Deanís Conference Room.

At the CBA kickoff event in January, Gail said that as part of the strategic plan, each department/program/center was to submit three strategic initiatives for the academic year. Jim followed up with an email to the Executive Committee asking to have these by October 16. We are still missing these from a couple of areas. Jim will ask Nancy to post these to the college web page when they are complete.

Kathy gave an update on assessment activities. Her report was similar to the one presented to the chairs two weeks ago.

Sandy gave an EMC update. The Lavin VentureStart Program has been supported from a $2 million gift from Leonard Lavin (founder and former CEO of Alberto Culver), who also gave an additional $1 million to the EMC for operating expenses. The two parts of the program are the Lavin Entrepreneurs and the Lavin VentureStart competition. In the Lavin Entrepreneurs, 18 students across 5 colleges were selected to receive one-on-one mentoring by local entrepreneurs, most of whom are SDSU alums. Sandy hopes to increase this participation to up to 100 students per year in the future.

The Lavin VentureStart competition is a campus business plan competition which will take place on December 2, 2009. There will be two competitions per year, one in the fall and one in the spring. Bernie Schroeder has been meeting with students since the beginning of the semester to discuss the different stages and steps of the business plan. This competition is open to all SDSU students.

For 5 years, EMC has partnered with the Hansen Institute and Peres Center for Peace on an entrepreneurial development project on innovative food products across countries. In July, Tony Dmitroff (Trustee of the Hansen Foundation) approved the move of Hansen Institute from the Foundation to the EMC. The director, Bonnie Stewart, Ph.D., will now become an employee of the EMC paid by Hansen Institute funds. The EMC-Hansen/Peres Center project is to facilitate the development of cross-country collaborative ventures between Israel and neighbors (e.g., Palestinian Authority, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco) for the purpose of developing innovative food products for sale in the U.S. and European markets. They are working on a blended olive oils from Israel and Palestine, and submitted a U.S. AID grant application for initial funding of $500k, awaiting a decision by the end of October.

EMC Business Forumís golf tournament will be on Monday, October 26th. Last yearís tournament raised $7,000. Last year, the Forum facilitated 7 roundtable sessions with member CEOs and representatives, and hosted a retreat in February 2009 attended by 22 families. It generated member fees billed and sponsor fees in 2008-09 of over $200,000.
Carmen has been teaching a graduate family business class for the Management Department. This semester, she is teaching an undergraduate family business class, which had a demand of over 80 students. Sandy said there is discussion of putting on an event for SDSU students and their parents who have a family business.

The L. Robert Payne Distinguished Entrepreneur Lecture will be given by Dr. Tina Nova, co-founder, President, and CEO of Genoptix on November 17th (4-5:30 followed by reception). Dr. Nova is a fabulous speaker and has a great story to tell. Faculty are urged to attend.

Mark gave an update on current SDSU CIBER initiatives. CIBER sent four undergraduate students to The Ohio State University International Case Competition, October 13-17, one student from each of the following disciplines: Finance, Marketing, Management, International Business. Each student worked in a cross functional team with students from other participating schools. Mark expressed thanks to the many faculty who participated with the students preparation and served as judges during the studentsí case practices over the past several weeks. Mark heard that one of our students made it to the final round of the competition and placed third overall.

CIBER has identified four faculty members to attend upcoming CIBER FDIB programs. CIBER will send Jim Gerber, Beth Chung-Herrera, and Helio Yang to FDIB China, hosted by University of Colorado-Denver. Robert Judge will attend FDIB Vietnam. Additional CIBER FDIB programs to be offered in the spring include FDIB MERCOSUR (hosted by Florida International University CIBER) and Eastern Europe (University of Pittsburgh CIBER).

CIBER is starting to receive faculty grant applications. They anticipate being able to fund many of these. They are continuing to work with faculty to help them define how their research project can benefit U.S. competitiveness, one of the cornerstones of the CIBER mission.

The CIBER annual Advisory Council meeting will be held Thursday, October 22nd.

CIBER is beginning to work on the grant to submit to renew its funding for 2010-2014. There are six initiatives that are part of the grant: to be a national resource for teaching IB, emphasis on foreign language and culture, research and training, student training, being a resource to the business community, and serving faculty and students at other institutions.

Gail announced that Dr. Michael Lea will be appointed as the Director for the Center for Real Estate, with an announcement forthcoming. Dr. Lea is the former Chief Economist at Freddie Mac and Executive Vice President for Global Market Development at Countrywide Financial Corporation. The appointment will be funded from the McMillin gift. Dr. Lea will be teaching this Spring.