Steering Committee Minutes 10/12/2007

Present: Toole, Baker, DeNoble, Doran, Naughton, Lackritz
Absent: Salehizadeh

The Committee voted to approve the joint JD/MBA degree between the CBA and the Thomas Jefferson School of Law. The program is identical to the current joint JD/MBA degree already in place with Cal Western. The number of students are small and no new classes will be required since students in the program utilize existing course offerings.

Jim Lackritz reported on the impact of electronic course evaluations on teaching ratings within the CBA. The general impact of e-vals is a .2 - .3 decrease in the responses to item #6, an increase in the number of students filling out the evaluations, and an increase in the number of comments (both positive and negative). E-vals do not allow the association of comments with a specific evaluation.

The Committee voted to approve language which deals with filling the Steering Committee when a vacancy exists (for any number of reasons). The language will be presented to the faculty for a vote in the Spring.

The Committee again had extensive discussion relating to filling the vacancy on the Steering Committee this semester. Topics discussed were having a new election, appointing a new member, and asking one of the faculty who received write-in votes in the last election to join the Committee. The issue was still not resolved and will be again discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting.

A discussion was held concerning the need to champion the CBA strategic plan. It was decided that Bill Baker and Dean Naughton would jointly work on areas in the strategic plan which had not yet been discussed in the immediate goals of the chairs and directors.

Gail reported on a number of financial areas. One major item of interest was that the Campus Fee Advisory Committee (CFAC) has approved an increase in the maximum fee per unit allowed for self-support programs to fee $1,500 from $956. In addition, Gail is optimistic that graduate student fee increase to $210 per unit will be approved. She also reported that President Weber is likely to return his share of the increase to the CBA. The fee increase is currently before the Trustees and should be voted on soon.

The Steering Committee will be undertaking, per our responsibilities in the College by-laws a financial review of the CBA. Chris Graham will be asked to present a financial review of the external and special programs at the next Steering Committee meeting. The Committee intends to review the finances of all of the CBA during the course of this year.