April 26, 2006

To: CSU Deans of Business

From: Gary W. Reichard
Executive Vice Chancellor & Chief Academic Officer

Subject: Request to Join a Conference Call Concerning the Statewide Lower Division Transfer Pattern (LDTP) for the Major in Business

This is to request that you or the senior program / curriculum leader for your bachelor's degree program join either of two scheduled conference telephone calls, as follows:

Monday, May 1 8:15 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, May 3 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

- The two phone calls will seek to convey the same information, so dialing in once is right: simply request that the appropriate campus representative dial in to either.
- Also invited to join these calls will be Dr. John Tarjan, CSU Bakersfield, who has been a remarkable leader in the development of the Business statewide LDTP, and selected others in their discretion who are members of the CSU Statewide Academic Senate Executive Committee.
- Dr. Tarjan will also invite selected campus faculty to join the call, “disciplinary representatives” who have been involved in the development of the Business LDTP.

Please dial (888) 476-3757, and please use the pass code 245534.

The conversation will focus upon a technicality, but an important one, concerning the LDTP statewide pattern for Business. In brief, it concerns whether certain community college courses identified by a California Articulation Number (CAN number) may, for an interim period of two years or fewer, be regarded as satisfying part of the Business LDTP. In my view, it is very much in the CSU's interest if faculty can, with integrity, say yes to this question. It will help rising
community college transfer students in just the ways we have expected LDTP to help them. It will help the CSU in making its case with policy-makers and interested parties statewide and in Sacramento.

Dr. Keith Boyum, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, will provide much of the information that we think you will want to know.

Here is further background.

1. The vision for the statewide portion of the Business LDTP is that community college rising transfers will be able with perfect confidence to choose the right courses in the lower division to put them on track for successful transfer to any CSU campus. Some of them may take advantage of a provision that will allow an early agreement with a particular campus that, upon completion of the LDTP pattern specified and in a context of any other enrollment controls that a campus requires, highest-priority upper-division transfer to the major and campus specified is guaranteed. Many, many more will just take advantage of this bright-line advice. Student may know, with a “bright line,” that CSU faculty have identified these courses as the right ones to take.

2. The statewide pattern developed in 2005 by CSU Business faculty representatives and available on the CSU website since June 2005 includes several courses that were linked to CAN numbers. When the CAN system was in operation, community college courses became “CAN-qualified” by being articulated with similar courses at several CSU campuses. A descriptor associated with each CAN number guided the articulation process. The faculty developing the LDTP pattern saw a need for more detailed, updated descriptors to undergird the LDTP.

3. Courses that make up the statewide pattern will be freshly defined in a faculty-led process ongoing now. Refreshed and elaborated “descriptors” for the courses in the pattern will be drafted, ratified, and posted for the benefit of community college colleagues. In turn, the community college faculty and administrative leadership will develop refreshed courses to be articulated to the descriptors. When courses are so articulated to the descriptors, community colleges will have gained agreement for this articulation with all 23 CSU campuses.

4. An LDTP Advisory Committee led by CSU faculty, but on which also sit representatives of the community colleges and the CSU Chancellor’s Office, has recommended that in the
interim courses previously qualified for articulation via the CAN process be acceptable. This is the recommendation for all of the 44 LDTP’s where with integrity it can be agreed to. Note that this is for a period of not more than two years. CSU Chancellor’s Office administrators have agreed that, given the size and significance of the Business major, and the importance of maintaining program integrity, Business will be given a top priority in the process of developing descriptors and articulating courses to them.

5. Business faculty have not previously agreed to this interim use of CAN-qualified courses. Therefore, we seek now their consent. Providing an explanation for this request is the main purpose of the conference calls. For the sake of students who will benefit from adoption of this interim strategy, we encourage Business faculty, if possible with integrity, to permit the interim use of CAN qualified courses.

Of course, we will offer more details via telephone. We look forward to the conference calls, and thank you in advance for joining one of them.

c: Dr. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor
   CSU Presidents
   CSU Provosts/Vice Presidents, Academic Affairs
   Dr. Marshelle Thobaben, Chair, Academic Senate
   Dr. John Tarjan, Professor of Management and Management Science, CSU Bakersfield
   Dr. Barbara Swerkes, Professor of Kinesiology, CSU Northridge
   Dr. Keith Boyum, Associate Vice Chancellor