Dear Dean Kleinsorge,

Thank you for submitting your Strategic Alignment and Budget Reduction Implementation document describing the proposed activities that the College of Business will be undertaking to comply with previously implemented budget adjustments, and describing your realignment activities both within the college and within the Business and Engineering Division. The Strategic Alignment and Budget Reduction Review Committee has completed its preliminary review of your document and has the following observations and a question for your consideration:

- The Committee recognizes that many aspects of the college’s organizational structure are mandated by the profession’s accrediting organization. As such, the college is not expected to undergo any significant administrative or academic realignment. As such, the budgetary implications for any changes will be minimal.

- The proposed organizational structure is in alignment with the institutional guidelines of no more than four layers (Provost ➔ Dean ➔ Department Head ➔ Faculty). Within this structure, the college is complying in most cases with the mandated minimum 6-to-1 reporting guidelines.

- The college will continue with the Associate Dean model with all 34 professorial and 22 fixed term faculty reporting to that office. The Committee recognizes that there was significant faculty input in 2008 when the move to one associate dean model was implemented.

- The college expects to graduate at least 20 students in each of its program areas, all discipline areas have at least 4 faculty FTE and the College does not offer lower division sections with an enrollment of less than 25 or upper division sections with and enrollment of less than 15.

- The college has been proactively managing its budget situation in an appropriate and progressive manner.

- In terms of its divisional alignment, the college will be considering a plan to expand the MBA program through new tracks and this may result in Category II proposals to add new MBA courses.

- Finally, the Committee recognizes that, because the college’s alignment is mandated by professional accreditation requirements, and, as such, few if any significant organizational changes have needed to be made, your report has not required extensive engagement of faculty within the college to develop the plan. Nonetheless, we strongly encourage you to keep your faculty informed about the institutional realignment activities and processes. If ideas arise as to how we, as an institution, might become better aligned and more broadly collaborative, please share those with the Committee.
Budget projections for the next biennium indicate that additional cuts will probably be necessary, possibly in excess of 10%. To what extent will the proposed changes address further decreases in state-appropriated funding?

The Committee will be developing recommendations for the Provost’s consideration by the end of May. At this point, we believe that your proposal is well aligned with both in the institutional expectations and with the needs of the college. However, if there is additional information that you feel compelled to share with the Committee, or if circumstances arise that changes will need to be made to your alignment implementation plan, please send this information along with your response to the question on future budget planning no later than April 30, 2010.

Please let me know if you have any questions for the Committee. Also, please do not hesitate to contact me if you think the committee can play a facilitating role in development of plans, either within the College or involving other colleges that may advance the strategic initiatives of the university. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky Warner
Committee Chair