Members attending: Berta-Avila, Hembree, Goodwin, Pan, Murai

New Business

1) Report of 2013-14 SSOAR activities and evaluation of the charge
The committee discussed activities from last year and reconsidered the charge for the year ahead. The following changes to our charge were proposed for full consideration at the next meeting.

- Consulting student outcome data, faculty/program input, and campus-wide initiatives, identify priority areas and college wide policies related to student outcomes.

- Recommend graduation speakers (faculty nominate, chairs recommend, Dean selects)

- Develop & monitor student recruitment plan (conducted program by program and by staff)

- House Student Scholarship Subcommittee (1 faculty rep per branch, 1 Ed Eq rep, 1 student scholarship staff rep) whose charge includes: evaluate scholarship applications and make recommendations about awards per award guidelines (ad-hoc group led by External Programs Staff and Development Associate)

- House Student Issues Subcommittee (2 faculty reps per branch, 1 student support staff rep, 1 rep from each of the approved subject matter programs) whose charge includes: appeals related to credential, graduate and undergraduate program policies, grade appeals, student discipline issues, special actions, and student grievances. Regularly scheduled meetings for the week before the semester begins and the last week of the semester (2 per semester) and as needed. (Credential Appeals Committee, grade appeals and student grievance committees established as needed)

Much of our time last year was spent considering student award nominees. However, it was the consensus of the committee that we need not duplicate the efforts of the branches. The outstanding grad award in the fall is best considered by the graduate branch, and the undergrad award in the spring by the undergrad branch. The grad and undergrad branch would then put forward nominees directly to the Dean’s office rather than through SSOAR. Similarly, grade appeals and credential appeals are already well addressed within the structure of their respective branches.
This semester, the committee would like to prioritize immediate needs around grad and credential recruitment, especially recruitment of a diverse group of students for our programs. We would also like to spearhead implementation of recently approved “graduation with distinction” for our graduate students, and to continue to connect with community members.

2) committee vacancies & membership
There are several community vacancies on the committee. The committee discussed potential candidates for these vacancies and several members have agreed to recruit former students and other community stakeholders and ask them to attend the next SSOAR meeting. There is also no representative attending from the grad branch, so Hembree will check on this with the grad branch chair. A chair is needed for this committee; please consider whether you are willing to chair or co-chair.

3) Discussion of recruitment strategies
The committee discussed strategies for recruitment. There is a need to have a coordinated strategic plan for recruitment and it is unclear what role SPAR plays in coordinating such a plan, so there is perhaps some discussion needed at DAC and/or branch chairs to coordinate and define our roles here.

There was some discussion of ensuring that accurate program information was accessible to students. The committee discussed reviewing web page and other means of delivering program information to prospective (and current) students. There was support for strategies for connecting students to faculty in the programs by instituting personal follow up calls by faculty for students showing interest in programs, and for sponsoring information nights for individual programs for faculty to meet with prospective students. The committee agreed to focus on our own undergraduates first. Kathe and Ashley will be at the graduate student recruitment event on campus on October 30th, and faculty are invited to participate. Berta-Avila has agreed to bring a draft of a recruitment focused on outreach to a more diverse student population for discussion at the next meeting.

Remaining SSOAR meetings for the year – 3rd Thursdays 1:15-2:30 pm Eureka 223
October 30th (rescheduled)
November 20th
December 18th
February 19th
March 19th
April 16th
(May 21st)