Meeting Objective:
To develop clear, workable budget plans that ensure the elimination of the College’s structural deficit.

Rationale:
Since 2008, SDSU has suffered a dramatic decline in state support. At the same time, the College of Education endured a steep decline in enrollments in several departments. So, while state revenue to the University declined overall, the distribution of those resources shifted away from the College of Education to other Colleges that were increasing enrollment. Fortunately, the College had amassed a substantial reserve. This reserve, however, has dwindled over the past five years as the amount of spending has substantially exceeded the amount of state revenues for instruction and operation.

The College of Education can, however, regain budgetary strength. Fiscal well-being cannot be achieved simply by budget cuts, especially if cuts impair our ability to attract students. We must wisely pursue new sources of revenue, prevent the loss of any more state revenue, and manage expenditures prudently. The Dean’s office cannot reverse our budget trends by acting unilaterally. Faculty, staff, and administrators must work together to develop, implement, monitor, and continuously refine a logical, workable plan that ensures our fiscal strength. It is “up to us.”

This meeting is the next in a series of Department Chair meetings that will focus on discussing and refining a plan of action that will help us develop fiscal strength.

Steps:
1. Discussion of President Hirshman’s plan to narrow structural deficit
2. Discussion of the concept of department-based budgets
3. Chairs’ strategies/considerations for developing department-based budgets