The working group met multiple times over the last year. Representatives from areas across campus that work directly and indirectly with industry, in addition to student representatives, provided a broad range of perspectives on ‘ways to engage industry in a more holistic and structured manor.’ We also engaged industry to provide perspective on the proposed SDSU Industry Affiliates Program (IAP).

The working group issued an initial set of recommendations:

1. Research successful IAP models from similar institutions and noteworthy programs.
2. Identify potential areas of industry interest.
3. Identify potential IAP members.
4. Set program goals, membership and pricing structure.
5. Request a staff position to assist in the development, implementation and execution of the IAP.
6. Implement the SDSU IAP model and implement a pilot program.

Progress on recommendations:

- As a result of our research and conversations with industry, UCSD and Stanford were the model IAP’s we selected. Traditional IAP’s, such as theirs are robust and well-staffed. They feature: internship programs; career placement services; research opportunities; faculty/student matching; Fellow, Mentor, Advisors (FMA’s); and much more. We determined that SDSU should begin its IAP by implementing a scaled-down version of the traditional IAP model. This scaled-down version would focus on the core component of the traditional IAP model, the Fellow (student), Mentor (industry), and Advisor (faculty) (FMA) relationship. This initial step would be a building block to develop the program to its full potential.

- Identifying potential areas of interest that should be in high demand by industry has been a challenge. Our areas of excellence are still being developed and could be a source of interest in the future. In an effort to provide potential industry partners with more options for collaboration and connection, the group decided to make the SDSU IAP university-wide.

- An initial list of potential industry partners was developed by the group.

- Stanford and UCSD FMAs charge $75,000-$100,000 per year, per project. Based on conversations with industry, it would be advantageous for us to be in the $25,000-$50,000 range. The fellowship would reside in the specific program or area that industry has chosen
to partner with. The pilot program goals are to secure five industry partners and an FMA from each of them by the end of the calendar year.

- The working group initially discussed requesting support for a position, but decided to implement a pilot first.

- The scaled down version of a traditional IAP has been developed and is ready to move forward once the implementation and execution capacity are established.

Moving Forward:

- We are actively looking at what is already in place (i.e. faculty who are working with industry) to determine how we can continue building on that base.

- The working group has its next meeting scheduled for June 16th. The development of the program by committee was successful; implementation and execution of the program by committee has proven difficult. As chair, I recommend including this program as part of a current development person’s responsibilities.

Current Working Group Members:

1. Steve Welter, Ph.D., Vice President, Research & Graduate Affairs
2. Stanley Maloy, Ph.D., Dean, College of Sciences
3. Monte Mehrabadi, Ph.D., Dean, College of Engineering
4. Tim Hushen, Associate Executive Director Research Advancement
5. Ben Moraga, Sr. Director, Corporate, Foundation & Community Relations (Chair)
6. Mike Rondelli, J.D., Director, Technology Transfer Office
7. James Tarbox, Ph.D., Executive Director, Career Services
8. Patric Papin, Ph.D., Senate Representative
9. Joylyn Darnell, College of Business (No longer with the university.)
10. Josh Morse, President, Associated Students (Graduated)
11. Grace Diaz, Associated Students (Graduated)