College of Business Administration
Graduate Committee

Minutes: September 10, 2007, 10:00 am, Dean’s Conference Room

Members: David Ely, Heather Honea, Mehdi Salehizadeh, Don Sciglimpaglia, Chamu Sundaramurthy, Gene Whittenburg

Guests: Gary Grudnitski, Howard Toole and Chris Graham

Item 1 New MBA – Culminating Experience
Presently, all MBA students must complete either the thesis option or the BA 795, while MSBA students complete a 790 class or a comprehensive exam. What should be the rule effective with the 2008 catalog as the New MBA takes effect? The committee requested that Gary, Howard, and Chris appear before the GC to provide it with inputs. GC member Don, along with Gary, Howard and Chris coordinate and offer the BA 795 classes/cases. Valuable insights were offered by the guests as well as GC members as discussions centered on a number of related questions: How many MSBAs are likely to switch to MBAs? What is the expected increase in the number of BA 795 cases? How many more faculty co-advisors will be needed and would there be additional (beyond the current $500) honorarium to be offered to them? Should MBA students with a discipline-focused program be allowed to complete a 790 course? Should students have a choice? Following an extensive debate, the GC (in executive/closed session) voted unanimously to continue with the current catalog language, namely: A student seeking an MBA degree must

“Complete a culminating experience (3 units)
BA 795 Integrative Business Analysis (3)
BA 799A Thesis (3) Cr/NC/RP”

(2007 Catalog, p. 66).

The committee recognized that the specific aspects of BA 795 still need to be finalized. Discussions (in both open and closed sessions) focused on these additional points: computer “simulation projects” or current 790 experiences being offered in lieu of consulting-based 795 cases; steps needed to be taken to ensure that a minimum level of quality is maintained vis-à-vis each student’s contributions in completing his/her 795 project; the possibility of organizing a meeting with faculty members who offer 790s to MSBA degree-seekers, aimed at gaining their participation in future 795 projects and experiences; and the possibility of offering the BA 795 classes at 18:00 (rather than the current 17:00) due to concerns over some students’ concurrent (“time overlap”) course enrollments.
Item 2  Proposed New MBA Curriculum
David presented to the committee all the curriculum- and program-related forms for the New MBA passed by the CBA faculty last Spring. The GC voted unanimously to approve all the proposed changes.

Item 3  Accounting and Finance Curriculum Proposals
Prior to its meeting, the committee chair was informed that, in addition to several curriculum proposals already submitted to the GC, there may be other items which need to be voted upon before the university-mandated deadline of Friday, September 14 (for inclusion in the 2008 catalog). The GC agreed to an e-mail voting system regarding any such proposals.

The School of Accountancy presented a special topics course (696) proposal entitled “Accounting Information Systems Audit/Control.” Meanwhile, Finance Department offered two curriculum proposals. One deletes an existing 3-units course (Fin 657, Financial Counseling), with its primary workload of completing a Personal Financial Plan being picked up by the proposed new 1-unit course (Fin 524, Personal Financial Planning Practicum). The GC voted unanimously to approve all there proposals.

Following its meeting, the GC received a proposal from the School of Accountancy aimed at increasing BA 660 (Managerial Accounting) to 3 units from 2 units. This change mirrors the one the Graduate Committee voted on for BA 650 (as a part of the New MBA Curriculum) during its latest meeting, and it only affects the MSA degree, not the new MBA. Also received from the School of Accountancy was a change-in-program proposal related to the language on the “admission to the degree curriculum.” The proposed text requires that a student must have satisfactorily completed the following additional courses: Introductory Managerial Accounting (BA 660) and an English writing and/or composition course at a university where English is the primary language of instruction. Both items received GC approval via e-mail votes.

Item 4  MBA for Executives in Life Sciences
David informed the committee about a proposed change to the MBA for Executives in Life Sciences. It re-labels the program as a concentration in order to distinguish the Life Sciences degree from the existing MBA programs for executives. The GC agreed, once again, to utilize the e-mail voting mechanism given the fact that the proposal will not be presented to the CBA’s Executive and Specialized Program (ESP) Committee until after the conclusion of GC’s meeting.
Subsequent to ESP’s meeting – which took place during the afternoon of Monday, September 10 – Graduate Committee’s chair was informed of the following:

“The Executive and Specialized Programs committee voted to approve the curriculum proposals for the MBA for Executives in Life Sciences program. The Life Sciences program was discussed on two levels. The committee approved motions to add language on the Life Sciences program to the Graduate Bulletin. This vote allows the CBA to meet university and WASC deadlines. The ESP committee discussed separately whether the Life Sciences program should be implemented. The minutes from the ESP committee meeting will reflect that their votes to change catalog language should not be interpreted as having reached a final decision on whether to implement the program. That issue will be decided at a later ESP Committee meeting.”

To meet university curriculum and WASC review deadlines, the Graduate Committee’s approval was also needed by Friday, September 14. Therefore, GC members were presented, via e-mail, with the detailed proposal and asked to vote on the “catalog language change only” along the same lines as the decision reached by the ESP committee. The Graduate Committee approved the catalog language change.

Adjournment: 11:55 am

Next meeting: Monday, September 24, 10:00 am, Dean’s Conference Room

Mehdi Salehizadeh
For the College Graduate Committee