College of Business Administration
Graduate Committee

Minutes: September 24, 2007, 10:00 am, Dean’s Conference Room

Members:

Present: James Beatty, David Ely, Heather Honea, Mehdi Salehizadeh, Chamu Sundaramurthy, Gene Whittenburg
Excused: Don Sciglimpaglia

Item 1  MBA Culminating Experience
The graduate committee continued the discussion of issues relating to the culminating experience in the revised MBA curriculum. Chamu reported that her department (Management) has begun discussions of the potential management specializations within the revised MBA program and has also discussed the culminating experience. In this regard, the department sentiment is that students be given additional options (other than the consulting projects BA 795), such as the research experience that students obtain in the current Management 790 class. In this course, students are required to study the academic and practitioner literatures on a particular topic, articulate a problem, collect data, analyze it and address the posed issue. This experience provides students with research skills and enables them to link theory and practice – skills that are valuable to practicing managers seeking to address issues in the workplace and to MBA students considering PhD programs. In addition students who want to go into consulting would benefit from an applied research project. There was an extensive discussion on this issue, and the committee decided to re-visit it at its next meeting.

Item 2  New MBA Advising and Other Issues
Committee members discussed a number of issues – e.g., advising MBAs, timing of declaration of specialization, requirements for specialization – related to the implementation of the New MBA. It was agreed that:

(1) because of the greater flexibility, students will require more guidance in developing their programs of study;
(2) detailed advising sheets for specializations that list specific courses for various career paths can ease the advising burden on faculty;
(3) a standard for waiving MBA core courses needs to established and well understood;
(4) MBA students should be asked to declare a specialization before they begin elective classes to receive appropriate advising on course selection.

The GC further agreed that committee members will consult with their departments on the following issues:
(1) the courses (including the number of courses) needed to prepare a student to enter various career paths within their discipline, and thus, the requirements for a specialization;  
(2) what is the appropriate culminating experience for students in their discipline;  
(3) standards for waiving MBA core courses.  

Additional discussion will take place at the next GC meeting.  

Item 3  JD/MBA, Thomas Jefferson School of Law  
David presented to the committee a packet of information regarding the proposed joint JD/MBA program between SDSU/CBA and TJSL (an institution accredited by the ABA). Currently, a similar program is in existence between SDSU/CBA and Cal Western School of Law. The proposed program will offer MBA students additional opportunities to pursue different types of courses and law specializations from those offered by Cal Western. The proposed dual-degree program will not involve any additional resources, and will rely on the existing CBA graduate courses. The item was presented as informational only, to be voted upon at GC’s next meeting.  

Adjournment:  10:45 am  

Next meeting:  Monday, October 8, 10:00 am, Dean’s Conference Room  

Mehdi Salehizadeh  
For the College Graduate Committee