College of Business Administration
Graduate Committee

Minutes: November 5, 2007, 10:30 am, Dean’s Conference Room

Members: James Beatty, David Ely, Mehdi Salehizadeh, Don Sciglimpaglia, Chamu Sundaramurthy, Gene Whittenburg
Guests: Gangaram Singh, Chris Graham

Item 1 MBA Program with Liaoning Education Department of China
David presented a proposal for an MBA program to be negotiated between the CBA and China’s Liaoning Education Department. The latter will identify potential students for admission to the program who have undergraduate degrees from a university recognized by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Students would have to qualify for admission to the CBA graduate program. Students, to be housed here in the San Diego area, will complete the 1-year full-time MBA degree (to be modeled after the “Sports Management Program”), with courses to be taught by CBA/SDSU faculty. The self-supported program is forecast to generate substantial net revenues for the CBA. While the first group is expected to begin next Fall, the selected students will have to come to SDSU next June in order to undertake the mandatory English-language preparation courses at ALI. Once the MBA program is designed, all of the relevant committees (at both the CBA and University levels) will have the opportunity for review and approval. The Graduate Committee voted unanimously to authorize the CBA to start negotiations with the Liaoning Education Department.

Item 2 New MBA – Culminating Experience
The GC continued its discussion of issues related to the culminating experience in the revised MBA curriculum which is to become effective Fall 2008. Gangaram and Chris joined the discussion. Gangaram told the committee that, at least in the case of the Management Department, it would be beneficial to retain the 790 option in the New MBA program. Some students who are aiming to pursue doctoral degrees are expected to benefit from the more individual- and research-based approach of the 790 alternative. Don and others emphasized the availability and viability of the “thesis option” in achieving this intended research outcome for a few interested students; all agreed, though, that certain administrative and logistical issues need to be addressed before this option can appeal to both faculty and students. Meantime, GC members pointed out that the New MBA does allow for 18 units of specialization – as opposed to 15 units in the current program – thus permitting the inclusion of a 790 course within the expanded units. However, Gangaram stated that the expected configuration of the new Management MBA will preclude this as it has to accommodate a strategy course and various other components and sub-areas of the discipline. There was consensus that if departments across the CBA continue to retain and offer their respective versions of the 790 course, there has to be a uniform standard in such offerings.
In the new program, perhaps a majority of those students who would have sought the MSBA would instead opt for the MBA degree, with most, if not all, taking the BA 795 culminating experience. Chris told the GC that his office expects to be able to handle the anticipated increase in the demand for BA 795 cases. Insofar as the cases are concerned, GC members did voice their concern that, whereas many current and past cases have contained aspects related to all the disciplines and areas represented in the CBA, attempts should be made to secure cases which are more integrative and broad-based. This would require more active participation by faculty members across the CBA in both the selection and the subsequent advising of the cases. In concluding its discussion of this subject, the GC agreed on the following:

1) Mehdi will contact the CBA departments, asking them to re-examine and refine – as needed – their respective “18-units specialization” segment of the New MBA. Furthermore, chairs will be asked to more actively recruit faculty for participation in various stages of the 795 cases.

2) The new MBA will be effective next Fall. During a transitional period – of perhaps 2-3 years – the current catalog language concerning the MBA culminating experience will remain [i.e.,: 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)]

During this period, David and his office, along with the Graduate Committee, will closely monitor trends and student demand for, among other things: MBA vs. MSBA; 790 courses; BA 795 vs. the thesis option; specialization programs; and course offerings across the departments. Following this experience and based on the collected data, the GC will examine the viability of changing the catalog language in order to introduce 790 as an option in the MBA culminating experience. In the interim, if 790 is approved as an option, then David will be authorized to waive the BA 795 requirement in favor of the 790 for any MBA student requesting such a waiver.

Item 3 Up-dates on various MBA Programs and Courses
David informed the committee about the latest up-dates regarding the changes to the 2008/09 Graduate Bulletin which have been approved by the SDSU Graduate Council:
Program Changes:
MSA
Updates program to include ACCTG 624 as a required course and the addition of an Accounting Information Systems track.

MBA
Updates program requirements to implement the faculty-approved changes, including: (a) changing the core from 8 courses (19 units) to 7 courses (21 units); (b) allowing up to 18 units of core courses to be waived; (c) reducing the number of themes from 4 to 2; and (d) increasing the number of elective units.

MSBA Program
Update list of program prerequisites to match the MBA core.

JD/MBA Program
Update program requirements to implement the new MBA curriculum.

Course Changes:
BA 650: change from 2 units to 3 units
BA 660: change from 2 units to 3 units.
BA 651: change from 2 units to 3 units, course description change
BA 653: change from 2 units to 3 units, course description change
BA 662: change from 2 units to 3 units, course description change
BA 711: change from CR/NC to letter grade
IDS 744: change in course title (to Seminar in Lean Six Sigma Quality Management) and course description
IDS 752: change in course title (to Seminar in Supply Chain Planning and Control) and course description
IDS 754: change in course title (Seminar in Operations Strategy)

The following proposals have been approved by the SDSU Graduate Council Curriculum Committee and will be presented to Graduate Council on November 8:
JD/MBA concurrent program with Thomas Jefferson School of Law
MBA for Executives in Life Sciences

Adjournment:  11:45 am
Next meeting:  Monday, November 26, 10:30 am, Dean’s Conference Room

Mehdi Salehizadeh
For the College Graduate Committee