College of Business Administration

Graduate Committee

Minutes: January 28, 2008, 10:00 am, Dean’s Conference Room

Members: James Beatty, Janie Chang, Karen Ehrhart, David Ely,
Mehdi Salehizadeh, Don Sciglimpaglia

Graduate Committee Membership
For its Spring semester meetings, the Graduate Committee will have Professors Karen
Ehrhart (filling in for Chamu Sundaramurthy from the Management Department) and
Janie Chang (for Gene Whittenburg from Accountancy). Professor Don Sciglimpaglia
continues to fill in for Heather Honea from the Marketing Department. The GC
extends a warm welcome to all three colleagues.

Item 1 New MBA: Latest Data, MSBA, Waiving the Core
David shared with the GC the available data on the Spring 2008 graduate students. Here are some of the highlights:

Applications: 392 (201 MBA, 121 MSBA, 68 MSA);
Admitted: (108, 74, 47); Enrolled: (82, 65, 35);
Employed: 65% were employed at the time of application (based on 164 responses to a
questionnaire);

Respondents ranked the “academic reputation of SDSU,” “location,” and “cost of
program,” as being among the key reasons for enrolling in SDSU Graduate Business
Program.

Based on this survey information, there was unanimity that the CBA and especially the
Graduate Business Program office should strive to enhance the program’s reputation
through, among other things, better marketing efforts and communication with both
prospective students and CBA alumni.

As the New MBA takes effect this Fall, expectations are that student demand for most
MSBA concentrations will sharply decline. Some, however, including MSBA-IS and
MSBA in Financial & Tax Planning, are expected to remain in demand. The GC
agreed that CBA departments, along with the IB Programs Committee, should review
and examine their respective MSBA concentration program to define a vision for these
programs. The primary aim should be to distinguish the MSBA degree from the MBA
by ensuring that these programs’ required courses remain “focused,” and their electives
become appropriately “narrow.” David and Mehdi will contact the departments and
program committees to convey this point.
In a carry-over from prior meetings, the committee continued its deliberations and discussions regarding the rules and procedures for waiving the core courses related to the New (30-48 units) MBA as well as the MSBA degree. The committee unanimously agreed that applicants seeking the MSBA degree should be subject to the same “core waiver” standards as those applying for the New MBA. The GC reiterated the following policy:

The Graduate Business Programs Office (GBPO) will take responsibility in evaluating students’ requests to waive core classes. Students with undergraduate business degrees from AACSB-accredited schools, having completed the upper-division equivalent of each core course within the previous five years with a grade of B (3.0) or better may have the core course waived. Students with degrees from other colleges/universities will be reviewed by the GBPO on an individual case basis. Those students with “out-of-date” equivalent courses or who received less than a grade of B may request to take a “challenge exam” for each course. The challenge exam will be the equivalent in difficulty to a comprehensive final examination given in the target core course. While instructors of core courses will be asked to create these exams, we envision them to consist of objective questions such that they can be administered by the GBPO periodically throughout the year.

Other issues related to the New MBA will be taken up at the next meeting.

Adjournment: 11:55 am

Next meeting: Monday, February 11th, 10:00 am, Dean’s Conference Room

Mehdi Salehizadeh
For the College Graduate Committee