College of Business Administration

Graduate Committee

Minutes: March 24, 2008, 10:00 am, Dean’s Conference Room

Members: James Beatty, Karen Ehrhart, David Ely, Don Sciglimpaglia, Gene Whittenburg

Excused: Mehdi Salehizadeh

Guests: Janie Chang, Richard Brooks, Fred Raafat, Bruce Reinig, Bill Sterk, Joe Tanimura, Helio Yang

Item 1. Core Courses

The Graduate Committee welcomed faculty members who will be teaching core courses in Fall 2008. The CBA Graduate Committee would like to create a forum for faculty teaching the core courses, especially those that will be redesigning their course to convert it from 2 units to 3 units. The GC’s hope is that the forum will give faculty the opportunity to redesign their individual course not in isolation, but with a broad perspective of the entire core sequence. There was support for using the extra unit to add depth to existing topics rather than simply expanding topics. The GC proposed to the core course faculty the idea of incorporating additional general MBA program goals and learning outcomes into their individual courses. This collective effort would result in a core course sequence that is coherent to the students and better aligned with the broad goals of the program. There was general agreement that at least two program level student learning outcomes could be incorporated into most of the core courses: (1) analyze a business problem in new and unfamiliar circumstances and (2) formulate strategies to solve business problems and pursue opportunities and communicate these strategies in a clear and concise manner.

It was suggested that framing class activities around these learning outcomes might also help address a perceived weakness demonstrated by BA 795 project teams of not always seeing ‘the big picture.’ The GC and core course faculty also discussed incorporating additional exposure to resources such as online databases and to research skills. Don Sciglimpaglia will draft a list of research skills that could be potentially added to the core courses for the GC to consider at a later meeting.
Item 2 Culminating Experience
The GC continued to discuss the role of the department 790 courses in the new MBA curriculum. This conversation will continue as departments determine the appropriate coursework to recommend to students for a specialization in their area. It was noted that the current Graduate Bulletin states that MBA students must complete either BA 795 or BA 799A.

Item 3 Curriculum Proposals
MGT 747 – Seminar in Managing Technology Commercialization. Tabled. The GC will ask the management department for clarification of the heavy reliance on group work for the grade assignment.
MGT 748 – Seminar in International Entrepreneurship. Approved with the understanding that editorial corrections will be made.

The following proposals were introduced as information. All are to be offered in the EMBA for Life Sciences program. The GC did not vote at this time to allow members to review the proposals more carefully and allow the ESP committee to first act on the proposals.

New Course: ACCTG 696 – Accounting for Executives in Life Sciences
Change in delivery mode (distance education): BA 655 – Marketing, BA 615 – Strategic Financial Management, MGT 626 – Competitive Analysis of Industries, IDS 705 – Communication Strategies, ACCTG 696 – Accounting for Executives in Life Sciences

Adjournment: 12:00 pm

[Minutes recorded by David Ely]

Next meeting: Monday, April 7th, 10:00 am, Dean’s Conference Room

Mehdi Salehizadeh
For the College Graduate Committee