Item 1 Summer BA 795

Professor Don Sciglimpaglia (795 instructor) approached the Graduate Committee to examine offering BA 795 as a six-week course during the summer. Currently, during the summer BA 795 is offered over 12 weeks as opposed to 15 weeks during Fall/Spring. This course offering does not conform to the typical six-week course offered in Summer (S1 or S2). In Summer 2009 the resource implication of offering six-week sessions is neutral because two sections of BA 795 will be necessary.

Sciglimpaglia attended the meeting to provide his thoughts on offering BA 795 as a six week course. Sciglimpaglia indicated the following issues and clarified how a six-week course might address the problems.

- **Issue 1**: There are some general challenges to BA 795 in finding clients/cases and as a result there have been an increased number of on-campus client projects.
  
  **Issue 1 Mitigation**: There would be reduced client cases needed at the beginning of the summer (S1). However, this does not resolve the number of overall cases needed.

- **Issue 2**: A typical BA 795 project has a horizontal component for phase 1 (secondary or key informant research) and vertical component for phase 2 (primary research and consultation with client). Completing both phases in a 12-week period is challenging for students.

  **Issue 1 and 2 Mitigation**: Offering two six-week courses provides the potential to have two student teams work on a single client case--Phase 1 would be completed by a student team in S1 and Phase 2 would be completed by a different student team in S2. This would allow students to focus on a single Phase and would reduce the number of cases needed for BA 795.
• **Issue 3:** Student focus on BA 795 appears to be lower in Summer versus Fall/Spring sections.  
  **Issue 3 Mitigation:** Increased frequency of contact (two days per week as opposed to one) could help to focus students.

The Graduate Committee was uncertain that these issues were sufficient to justify a switch to a six-week summer BA 795 course. The Committee was particularly concerned about issues related to a shortened timeline for project scoping (challenges with project description and feasibility of projects components not being well articulated for the Letter of Engagement) and completion. However, the Committee is interested in investigating student demand for such a course. If student demand is sufficient the Committee is willing to approve a trial six-week course in Summer 2009. The trial course would only be offered in one summer session so that students would still have the option of participating in the 12-week course. This will also allow the Committee to examine student performance in the six-week versus 12-week course. The Graduate Committee will work with BA 795 summer instructors to develop student performance assessment tools.

The student performance in this course will be compared against the student performance in the 12-week course to evaluate the benefits and challenges of a shorter summer course format.

**Item 2 MBA Class Enrollment and Course “Shopping”**

The Graduate Council will permit the College of Business to change the way graduate students enroll in classes during the first two days of enrollment. Full-time graduate business students will be able to enroll in up to 12 units and part-time business students will be able to enroll in up to 6 units. After that two-day period students will be able to enroll in additional classes. This should insure that students with later registration slots will be able to get classes at registration and should mitigate demand matching from students shopping classes.

**Item 3 MBA Assessment Plan**

The Graduate Committee continued to revise the MBA assessment plan. The Committee is investigating the possibility of offering an exam in one class period of the BA 795 course as a key component of assessment.

Next meeting: Monday, March 9th, 9:00 am, Dean’s Conference Room

Heather Honea

For the College Graduate Committee