College of Business Administration  
Graduate Committee  
Minutes: December, 1st 2009 9:30am, Dean’s Conference Room

**Members (in attendance):**  
Karen Ehrhart: MGT  
Heather Honea: MKTG  
Kuntara Pukthuanthong-Le: FIN  
James Beatty: IDS  
Damon Fleming: ACCTG  
David Ely: Graduate Director  

**Guests (in attendance):**  
Chris Graham: Aztec Business Alliance

**Item 1-Change in Program**  
The Graduate Committee reviewed the deletion of the Global Entrepreneurship specialization from the Master of Business Administration Program. The specialization could not recruit a cohort of sufficient size to allow the program to break even. This change requires the removal of the program from the catalog.

The Graduate Committee reviewed the deletion of the Life Sciences concentration in Master of Business Administration for Executives. This program was designed to be offered as a self-support program. The program could not recruit a cohort of sufficient size to allow the program to break even. This change requires the removal of the concentration and specific Life Sciences courses from the catalog.

The elimination of both the specialization and concentration save resources for the College of Business Administration as neither of the programs were able to break even. The Committee unanimously approved both changes in program.

**Item 2-SDSU Course Change, Deletion or Reinstatement**  
The Committee reviewed a proposal to remove reference to Finance 615 and a correction of a reference to BA 653 in the catalog description. Finance 615 has not been offered since 1994 when it was replaced by BA 665. The Committee unanimously approved the deletion and change.

The Committee reviewed a proposal to remove reference to Finance 616 and a correction of a reference to BA 653 in the catalog description. Finance 616 has not been offered since 1994 when it was replaced by BA 653. The Committee unanimously approved the deletion and change.
Item 3- BA 795 Discussion
The Graduate Committee began discussions to explore the opportunities and issues associated with BA 795 and the benefits of relying on BA 795 for a culminating experience for the MBA program. Chris Graham joined the Graduate Committee to participate in this discussion and provide insights on the opportunities and issues associated with the recruitment and interaction with clients for the program.

The BA 795 experience is very valuable in that it provides connection to the business community. Students appreciate the “field” experience and importance associated with the business community coming together at the kick-off.

In previous years BA 795 has generally involved two classes with approximately 12 cases, this has increased dramatically. With the change in requirements that allows students to waive core courses there has been a significant increase in the number of students enrolled in the MBA program, and thus BA 795. The large number of projects has created some quality concerns due to the number of team members on each project and the types of projects selected. In particular, the large number of projects required has resulted in an increased number of internal projects or projects that are given away for free (in some cases this appears to reduce the level of commitment or responsiveness on the client side).

Other challenges include: 1) misalignment of student expertise and interests with project focus, 2) student teams have multiple bosses (faculty advisors and client) and 3) differences in academic capabilities or experience of team members and 4) free rider issues within a team. Although team members do time logs, there is no individual assessment in the course itself.

Potential ideas to address the above issues include expanding BA 795 opportunities to other classes with significant projects, introducing individual assessment activities in BA 795, incorporating additional assessment activities into the BA 795 course, and revamping the client survey to better understand how to manage client expectations and interaction with teams.

The Graduate Committee agreed to develop an analysis of the MBA culminating experience. The Committee will work in conjunction with the staff and faculty involved in BA 795 to explore opportunities to improve curriculum, student, and client experience—and at the same meet goals of improving the reputation and community connections of the College of Business Administration. Specifically, the Committee will explore the potential of an individual assessment exercise for BA 795 and work with BA 795 faculty to assess the feasibility of such an exercise. The Committee will examine client surveys to identify how the surveys and client feedback may be integrated into program improvements as well as explore potential enhancements to the client survey.

Adjournment: 11:00 am
Next meeting: Tuesday, December 15th, 9:00am.

Heather Honea
College of Business Administration
Graduate Committee
Minutes: December, 15th 2009 9:00am, Dean’s Conference Room

Members (in attendance):
Karen Ehrhart: MGT
Heather Honea: MKTG
James Beatty: IDS
Damon Fleming: ACCTG
David Ely: Graduate Director

Item 1-Change in Program
The Graduate Committee reviewed a change in program. The change is to facilitate academic advising by replacing the “Corporate” and “Professional” Master in Accountancy specializations with “Financial Reporting.” The Committee approved the change in program.

Item 2-Capstone and Culminating Experience Discussion
The Graduate Committee continued discussions regarding a Capstone or integrative course in the MBA program and the MBA culminating experience. The Graduate Committee believes there is merit in an integrative course (e.g., MGT 626) that would complement the core course experience and refresh materials for individuals that opted out of core courses. Requiring such a course would have implications for the number of units required in the MBA program. The Committee will review the units in other CSU MBA programs as well as the units in aspirant/competitive programs.

Adjournment: 10:30 am

Next meeting: January 2010.

Heather Honea