Undergraduate Committee
April 9, 2008
Minutes

Present: Michelle Dean, Annette Easton, Gary Grudnitski, Kathy Krentler, Jeremy Sanders, Bill Sterk
Absent: Sandi Williams

1. Accounting Curriculum Proposals
The Committee considered two related curriculum proposals from the Accounting Department, one for a program change and one for a course change. Accounting proposes to offer a new program, Bachelors/Masters in Accounting (BMACC). The BMACC program is a 141 unit program leading to both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Accounting. Students can apply to the program beginning in their junior year. An important purpose for this program is to attract our best undergraduate Accounting students to the School’s graduate program by allowing them to double count 9 units of coursework.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the program.

A related course change involves changing the number, title, and prerequisites for ACC 422. ACC 422 (Integrative Accounting Topics) is currently the capstone course of the undergraduate Accounting program. The course is proposed to become ACC 522 (Current Issues in Accounting Practice and Theory), allowing a set of graduate courses (ACC 620 & 625) to serve as an alternative prerequisite to the existing 422 prerequisites of IDS 301, IDS 390W, and ACC 322. This change allows the course to count for undergraduate or graduate credit and hence would serve as a graduate level course for students in the BMACC program. The course would continue to serve as the undergraduate capstone in Accounting for non-BMACC majors.

The Committee discussed the proposed change but questioned the notation that no special requirements would be instituted for students taking the course for graduate credit and that grading standards and weights for both graduate and undergraduate students would be identical. The Committee understands that 500-level courses should specify some distinction between expectations for undergraduate and graduate students.

The Committee voted unanimously to return the course change proposal to the Accounting Department for further consideration.

2. Assessment Update
Krentler previewed a short Power Point presentation for the Committee. The presentation is planned for delivery at the College of Business Administration meeting scheduled for Friday, April 11. The presentation emphasizes the need to focus attention on “closing the loop” activities, using one general BSBA program
goal as an example of a program that is weak in this area. The Committee suggested a slide be added to the presentation that provided examples of typical “loop closing” activities.

3. Honor Code
The Committee engaged in a discussion of the challenges associated with academic dishonesty. Krentler had previously presented an article for consideration that described several business schools that have instituted an Honor Code to address this issue. The pros and cons of various approaches to addressing the issue of academic dishonesty were discussed including more vigilance by faculty members, greater consistency among faculty members regarding consequences of academic dishonesty, and issues related to implementation of a College-wide honor code. It was agreed that any initiative needs to be driven by a wide range of CBA stakeholders, but that student input was particularly vital to the success of any type of effort. It was further agreed that the ultimate solution to the issue is the development of a culture that supports integrity among students. It was suggested that a discussion amongst ABSC students on the issue would be appropriate. The Committee’s discussion will also continue.

4. Student Fee
Student representative, Jeremy Sanders, raised the issue of the potential for a College-wide student fee. A brief discussion with Sally Rousch, SDSU Vice President of Business & Financial Affairs, indicated that such a fee is not impossible if supported by students. The fee could be used to support a wide variety of value-added items in the College including specialized databases and software. Krentler pointed out that this is an issue that was raised by Dean Naughton a few years ago. The Committee encouraged Sanders to discuss the issue with the ABSC. Should a proposal for such a fee come as a student-driven initiative it is likely to garner greater support from fellow students.

Meeting adjourned at Noon

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 23, 2008, 10:00 a.m.; Dean’s Conference Room