Undergraduate Committee  
September 24, 2008, 10:00 a.m.  
Minutes

Present: Michelle Dean, Annette Easton, Gary Grudnitski, Kathy Krentler, Bill Sterk, Sandi Williams  
Absent: Josh Lyon  
Guest: Lois Olson

1. Curriculum Guide and Deadlines

Joyce Ruocco briefly joined the meeting to provide clarification regarding curriculum proposal deadlines. Minutes of the last (9/10/08) Undergraduate Committee meeting stated: “The cut-off date for curriculum changes to make it into the 2009-2010 catalog is October.” This is incorrect. The deadline for the 2009-2010 catalog is past. More importantly, as stated in the University’s 2008 Curriculum Guide, the deadline for curriculum to leave the College of Business in time for the 2010-2011 catalog is April 6, 2009. Generally speaking, the deadline for a given year’s catalog is always during the spring (March or April) of previous year.

2. Report on Fully Online MKT 370

Lois Olson joined the Committee to report on her experiences with the College’s first fully online undergraduate course. Professor Olson taught MKT 370 (Introduction to Marketing) in this format during Summer 2008. The course was supported both through its development and implementation phases by the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Professor Olson’s experiences were generally positive as were those of the students in the course. The grade distribution was comparable to fully face-to-face sections of the course she has taught in the past. The pros and cons and aspects of the course Professor Olson would change the next time it’s taught under this format were also discussed.

3. Curriculum

a. ACC 575

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the School of Accountancy for a new course, ACC 575 – Accounting Information Systems Development. The course has been taught for the past three years as a Special Topic. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the course proposal.

b. IDS 180

The Committee reviewed a proposal from the Information and Decision Systems Department for a description change for IDS 180 – Principles of Information Systems. The new description represents relatively minor changes that better reflect what is taught in the course. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the course change.
4. **Upper-Division Welcome**

Krentler reported on the Fall 2008 Upper Division Welcome and shared data regarding participation at the event in comparison to previous semesters. Attendance was similar to past semesters. The Committee noted that the event, while well received by attendees and student organizations, has had difficulty attracting, on average, more than 20% of new upper-division declarants after four and a half years. It was also noted that spring semester attendance, as a percentage of new declarants, is always higher than fall semester attendance. It was agreed that starting with the 2009-2010 academic year we will try holding the event annually rather than each semester. A single Welcome at the beginning of spring semester will invite all students admitted to upper-division during the previous Summer and Fall terms, as well as that Spring term.

5. **BAT Analysis**

The Committee reviewed data for SDSU's performance using a calculator (versus not allowing the use of calculators) on the BAT 2008 for the questions that might have benefited from the use of a calculator. There was no clear pattern suggesting that students allowed to use calculators performed better than those who were not allowed to use them.

The Committee continued a discussion started at its last meeting regarding possible responses to the BAT results. Speculation regarding a possible primacy/recency issue was considered. With the exception of the Finance sub-test, students appear to perform better on sub-tests based on courses they completed during upper-division and worse on sub-tests based on courses they completed during lower-division. Possible solutions to this were discussed. Students could be tested on lower-division material at the time they enter upper-division, hence allowing testing to occur closer in time to when they completed the relevant courses. Implementation of this could be accomplished by tying it to their upper-division declaration. This approach, however, does not address how to incentivize students to perform to the best of their ability. Another possibility is to have students review material from courses taken in lower-division prior to testing near the end of their degree. Krentler agreed to gather information on the feasibility of this option by talking to other schools that have developed review/tool kit materials.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, October 8, 2008, 10:00 a.m.; Dean’s Conference Room