Undergraduate Committee
November 19, 2009
Minutes

Present: Annette Easton, Paul Graf, Kathy Krentler, Martina Musteen, Sandi Williams
Absent: Robert Plice (On Furlough)
Guests: Teresa Donahue, Roxanne Riedel

1. New Member
The committee welcomed Martina Musteen. Martina is replacing Michelle Dean for the
remainder of the 2009-2010 academic year. Michelle is on maternity leave for the remainder of
the Fall semester and will be on sabbatical in Spring 2010. The committee thanks Michelle for
her contributions over the past year and a half.

2. Study Abroad
One of the three recently adopted objectives for the Undergraduate Committee is continued
expansion of Study Abroad opportunities in the college. The committee agrees that this
objective is best framed in efforts to enhance our students’ global perspective and awareness as
per a BSBA goal and student learning outcomes added in spring 2009. Hence the objective
should be not only to increase the number of students who study abroad but more broadly to
provide opportunities for our students to increase their global perspective and awareness.

Teresa Donahue and Roxanne Riedel presented a proposal to the committee for a revised
certificate program linked to global awareness. During 2008-2009 the UG Committee approved
a proposal for an Inter-Cultural Proficiency Certificate (IPC). The proposal, however, was tabled
by the CBA Steering Committee which felt there was faculty resource implications associated
with the portfolio requirement of the IPC that could not be accommodated. The new proposal
does not contain any faculty resource implications. To earn a Global Awareness Certificate (GAP)
it is proposed that a student must attend a series of workshops, complete an international
experience outside the U.S., complete a set of academic requirements which include two
courses in a language other than English, and complete a minimum of 150 hours of activities and
service with a strong multicultural, diversity, or international theme.

The committee discussed the proposal and recommended some changes to the language
requirement. Recommendations include that the language courses must be college-level and
that they should be related to the student’s international experience. If a student studies
internationally in an English-speaking country, he or she could select two semester of a language
of choice. The committee also discussed the proposed name for the program: Global Awareness
Program (GAP). Krentler expressed the concern that the name sends the message that only
students earning the certificate are expected to be globally aware whereas this is a goal for the
entire BSBA program. It was agreed that Krentler would review the global goal for the BSBA
program and then suggest alternative names for the certificate program.
3. **BSBA Program Outcomes**

Krentler made a short presentation to the committee about the Skillsoft pilot program undertaken this semester as a means of closing the loop on our students’ essential business knowledge. The program appears to have resulted in some improvement in Finance skills but no improvement in Statistics skills (as measured by the BAT exam). Students did feel that their skills were strengthened as a result of completing Skillsoft online reviews in the disciplines of Finance and Statistics. They did not, however, feel that the reviews improved their confidence nor did they feel that the reviews were helpful on the BAT. Further, students were generally dissatisfied with technical aspects of the Skillsoft program.

Following the presentation the committee engaged in a discussion of other alternatives for improving our students’ essential business knowledge skills and more broadly means of improving our students’ skills across all the student learning outcomes that exist for the BSBA program. The committee began by considering this question “if we were an environment of unconstrained resources”. With this perspective it was suggested that a required end of program unit that required students to demonstrate proficiency in the five goals of Communication, Critical Thinking, Ethical Reasoning, Global Perspective, and Essential Business Knowledge would be ideal. Ideas regarding what this unit’s requirements would look like and how it would be delivered (online?) were discussed. It was acknowledged that implementation of such a course is most likely not practical in the current environment but the committee agreed that it could make sense to proceed with discussions and development of the idea with the thought that it could be “readied to go” at a point in the future when resources are less constrained. Discussions on this issue will continue.

4. **Ranking Metrics**

This topic, related to UG Program Objective #2 was tabled until the committee’s next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, December 3, 2009, 1:00 p.m.; Dean’s Conference Room