Happy New Year Everyone,

There is another alternative to this proposal that is very worthy of consideration. What the Committee’s proposal would essentially do is take us from a requirement of 64 hours "outside the College" (this term includes Econ - don't blame me) to a requirement of 60 hours outside the College (30 Common Core, 3 VWW, 15 Other College Requirements + 9 Economics classes + 6 hours of electives). This is a big improvement over what we have now, but we might want to consider doing away with the outside-the-College requirement altogether, so that we only require courses outside the College that total 54.

Points in favor of doing away with the requirement altogether are that:

(1) We could make it easier for students to get business minors or double majors if we allow them to take these electives within the College, which might make them more marketable - a very important consideration when jobs are so scarce. They can, of course, get double majors and minors by taking classes above 128 hours, but that also takes more money, something most of our students have less and less of these days.

(2) I checked three of our peers, and ASU, Texas Tech, and Texas A&M (the only ones I checked) apparently only require 54, 57, and 54 hours, respectively, outside the College in their curricula. This indicates that at least some other (maybe most other?) universities have decided that 54 or 57 hours is an appropriate level. Not that we should just do what others do, but at least this indicates that 54 hours outside the College would not be out of line.

(3) The Committee’s proposal has no restriction on which classes outside the College students could take for their electives, so they could take the proverbial basket weaving classes as their outside-the-College electives. This tends to offset the argument that their education would be more well-rounded by taking courses outside the College - there is absolutely no guarantee that requiring these classes be outside the College will do that in any meaningful way. I can think of many courses within the College that would serve students better than the electives they typically take outside the College, but in my opinion it would be better if they are allowed to make that choice themselves.

(4) Even if we do away with the outside-the-College requirement altogether, the different Departments could still require that six hours of their students' electives be taken outside the College, if they think that is appropriate for their students. Doing away with the requirement altogether would allow each Department to tailor its curricula to fit its students more closely.

(5) Doing away with the requirement altogether would still allow students who wanted to take these electives outside the College to do so.

It is interesting to note that apparently in Arts and Sciences it is possible to get a degree with 125 of their 128 hours inside the College.

I appreciate the amount of work the Undergraduate Committee did last semester, and the time they spent considering their proposal, which is a big improvement over what we have now. However, in my opinion doing away with the requirement altogether should also be considered. Specifically, this alternative proposal would be as follows:

Current Catalog

(1) Under Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees: Successful completion of at least 64 degree credits outside the College of Business. Among these credits are a maximum of 9 credits of economics and 6 credits of statistics.
(2) Under General Electives, the current catalog states: Students must complete additional credits to bring total degree credits to a minimum of 128, upper division credits to 48, and credits outside the College of Business to a minimum of 64. The number of general elective credits varies by student.

Proposed new catalog language:

Delete the statement in item (1) above and replace the statement in item (2) with: Students must complete additional credits to bring total degree credits to a minimum of 128, upper division credits to 48.

Thanks for your time,

Larry

-----Original Message-----
From: Brook, Kathleen [mailto:kbrook@ad.nmsu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2011 1:45 PM
To: Business Faculty & Staff Mail List
Subject: FW: Convocation agenda and materials

I am sorry to be sending information in pieces but will assemble everything for distribution once again next week.

In consultation with Terry Adler, chair of the Undergraduate Committee, I have put together the following statement for a vote at convocation.

Current Catalog

(1) Under Requirements for Bachelor's Degrees: Successful completion of at least 64 degree credits outside the College of Business. Among these credits are a maximum of 9 credits of economics and 6 credits of statistics.

(2) Under General Electives, the current catalog states: Students must complete additional credits to bring total degree credits to a minimum of 128, upper division credits to 48, and credits outside the College of Business to a minimum of 64. The number of general elective credits varies by student.

Proposed new catalog language:

Delete the statement in item (1) above and replace the statement in item (2) with: Students must complete additional credits to bring total degree credits to a minimum of 128 and upper division credits to a minimum of 48.

Proposed new catalog language:

Delete the statement in item (1) above and replace the statement in item (2) with: Students must complete additional credits to bring total degree credits to a minimum of 128, upper division credits to 48, and must take an additional 6 general elective credits outside the College of Business (beyond those required to satisfy other requirements listed above).

Kathy

-----Original Message-----
From: tadler@nmsu.edu [mailto:tadler@nmsu.edu]
Sent: Wednesday, January 05, 2011 11:27 AM
To: Brook, Kathleen
Subject: Re: Convocation agenda and materials

Kathy, this is the wrong report for our committee. I sent you the correct one minutes after I mailed you this one explaining this. I am attaching the correct one. The one you sent out is an earlier draft I inadvertently sent to you.

Thanks. Terry Adler
Attached is a draft agenda for the college convocation on Wednesday, January 12, at 8:30 a.m. Refreshments will be available prior to the meeting and pizza will be served for lunch.

Action items include a proposal from the Undergraduate Committee to replace the requirement that students take 50% of the course work outside the CoB with a requirement that students take 6 credits of electives (beyond those required to satisfy other requirements) outside the CoB.

The requirement to take 50% of coursework outside the college has been in place for many years and is probably related to old AACSB standards. That requirement has posed problems in advising students since the number of electives a student would need outside the college varied with their math placement and other factors. Requiring six credits of electives outside the college is a close substitute for students who must take MATH 120. Students who come in with more math may make course selections that give them relatively more credits inside the CoB.

A second action item is a proposal from the Graduate Committee to modify the procedures for the oral exam to make a clearer distinction between the BA 590 capstone course and the oral exam (which satisfies a requirement of the Graduate School for master's degree students).

A third item of importance is a report from Sherry Mills, the Undergraduate and the Graduate Committees on assurance of learning. As you know we are assessing our programs throughout the college with the goal of improving the curriculum - for the college as a whole this involves the BBA and the MBA. Please review the materials from these committees so that you are prepared to discuss suggested improvements.

Some materials are attached, but you may also find it useful to review the committee minutes posted at http://business.nmsu.edu/administration/minutes. The password is "cobminutes."

There will also be an opportunity to provide feedback to the Strategic Management Advisory Committee concerning the college's strategic plan and action priorities for the near future and to hear from the departments concerning their discussion of the budget situation.

A report from the Undergraduate Committee is attached. Other reports will be distributed as they become available.

Faculty Council: From Faculty Council, the only action item relates to research awards meant to stimulate publications in refereed journals. Most members of Faculty Council prefer the structure recommended by Faculty Council: each department is responsible for awarding its own faculty members. In contrast, CEC preferred a college-wide selection process.

As the program is meant to stimulate faculty productivity, perhaps faculty should decide on its structure.

Kathy