College of Business, Graduate Committee Meeting Minutes
March 14th, 2012

Present: Liz Ellis, Robin Peterson, Sam Gary, Dean Kathy Brook (ex-officio), Sherry Mills, Carlo Mora, Ken Martin, Tom McGuckin, John Shonk (ex-officio)

Guest: Elise (Pookie) Sautter

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, March 14th, 2012 in room 246 of the Business Complex.

The minutes of 2/29/2012 were approved.

II.

• Pookie presented to the GC a summary on a two-day conference she attended which focused on critical thinking and creativity which are both relevant topics to NMSU’s MBA program; in particular the emphasis for the GC to consider is critical thinking which would consist of two parts. The first part would contain a Graduate Committee “boot camp” for MBA students. Students would complete this boot camp prior to their MBA program start and it would last about two weeks. The process taught through memo form would focus on critical thinking with an emphasis on developing student’s problem formulation through case definition and analysis. The second part consists of students grading each other through a rubric in addition to the professor’s grade.

• Discussion continued on the idea of a boot camp for NMSU’s MBA program. It was felt that this process would be intensive in bringing people together and would set a program atmosphere for the MBA program. In addition how critical thinking in this short activity period would place an emphasis of encouraging MBA students that there is a better way to stage and define a problem. In effect this boot camp through the case/short memo and rubric teaches students up front and how to use this knowledge in each MBA course.

• It was agreed by the GC that MGT 590, Strategic Management, would be an ideal course to use the case approach and rubrics in assessing critical thinking and writing.

• John will provide a list to Sherry and Tom of faculty who have taught or are currently teaching MGT 590. Sherry will meet with Steve Elias, management department head, and the faculty to discuss this issue. Sam will report back to the GC the results of this meeting. This is essential so that this process will become part of the MGT 590 syllabus and is included within our report for the AOL.

• Liz presented her GC assignment check list (see attached w/ updates) on completed items. In particular she asked the GC about the item dated 2/1 on the Tara Gray workshop and how it would affect student’s learning outcomes. In fact we need more writing assignments for MBA students. The workshop participants should provide a copy of their writing assignments to the GC. John will provide to Tom a list of Spring 2012 MBA course instructors. These instructors will be asked to provide how much of their course contains a writing component and secondly on their writing assignment and if they give constructive feedback on the writing quality.

• The globalization and writing issue will be discussed after Spring Break.

• A name change to the MBA Graduate Committee was suggested to avoid confusion with the Ph.D. Management and Marketing and Economics programs.

III. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The next meeting will be held Wednesday March 28th, 2012 at 10:45 a.m. in room 246 of the Business Complex.

Minutes submitted by John Shonk, Secretary