College of Business, Graduate Committee Meeting Minutes

October 31, 2012

Present: Gavin Clarkson, Steve Dordick (MBA student representative), Tom McGuckin, Robin Peterson, Carlo Mora, Kathy Brook (ex-officio) and John Shonk (ex-officio).

Guest: Liz Ellis

Excused: Sam Gray

I. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 10:50 a.m. on Wednesday, October 31, 2012 in the Dean’s conference room, room 134.

The minutes of meetings from 9/5/2012 and 9/12/2012 (with one change noted) were approved.

II. Discussion

• Steven (Steve) Dordick was elected by his fellow MBA students to serve as their representative to the Graduate Committee. Welcome aboard.

• Kathy brought before the GC the issue of MBA transfer credit and the need for prior approval for a student who has already started the MBA program at NMSU and subsequently wants to take a course equivalent at another institution for transfer (see email of 9/5/12). It was M/S/P unanimously that the statement “Course work completed after initiation of Graduate School at NMSU must have prior approval of the course department head if such work is to be transferred to the MBA program.” was to be included in the Policy Manual of the CoB and the MBA Handbook.

• Kathy received a student request that aged courses, which by definition are more than seven years old as stated within the Graduate Catalog, be allowed to be counted toward the MBA degree (see email of 9/18/12). The courses of BLAW 502 and MKTG 503 were taken in 2001-2002 and the student had a time lag of eight years before resumption of the MBA program in 2010. After discussion by GC members it was agreed that a student should repeat a course(s) if the content has changed substantially or an alternative course could be suggested by the department. GC members agreed that the seven year limitation was fair as some time period must be enforced. Furthermore, it was agreed that this was not an issue that the associate dean should take to the graduate dean to challenge on the seven year limitation. It was M/S/P unanimously that the student’s request should be denied. John will inform the student of this decision.

• Liz had a CAF request (dated 05 OCT, 2012 – see attachments) for a new course offering of BLAW 530, American Law and Policy, which is currently listed under special topics within the Finance and Business Law department. It is now offered to graduate students and does not have a prerequisite; it is hoped that in the future it may be an honors course with differentiated assignments for undergraduate and graduate students and may be adopted by other departments within the university such as anthropology. It was M/S/P unanimously that BLAW 530, with the amended course title of “American Indian Law and Policy” and the amended short title “Indian Law and Policy,” be approved as an MBA elective course.
• There were two items from the AACSB Peer Review of October 7 – 9, 2012 that pertain to the GC. The first is the addition of management specific learning outcomes and the second is the elimination of duplicate learning objectives at the undergraduate and graduate levels within the CoB. In effect, the MBA program should expect a higher level of learning for master’s level students.

• The issue of globalization and how it will be defined and assessed as a learning objective was discussed by the GC (see Globalization 10/31/12 & emails from faculty). Carlo provided the GC with learning goals and sub goals on globalization from web sites - see chart on globalization - and Liz had compiled department responses of the goals on this topic (see attached). It was suggested that the GC should direct the curriculum and specify how globalization will be covered within various courses of the MBA program. It was agreed that the goals should be kept simple and that globalization would be defined as follows:
  o “Students can understand how globalization affects organizations and their environment.” The GC members also proposed the following four sub-goals:
    1. Students will analyze the opportunities and threats in the environments associated with managing organizations internationally.
    2. Students can demonstrate the rationale for developing global brands and global brand positioning.
    3. Students can identify and analyze the key legal issues associated with operating a business globally.
    4. Students can understand exchange rates as they relate to operating a global business.

After deliberation and consideration the definition of globalization and the sub-goals will be voted upon at the next GC meeting.

• It is the responsibility of the GC to review the learning objectives of the MBA program and determine that students who are taking the MBA AgriBusiness specialization courses, which are taught through the College of Agriculture, are comparable to the MBA courses which are taught in the CoB. The meeting between the College of Agriculture AEEB faculty and the MBA faculty, held on 9/25/2012, (attached email meeting minutes 9/26/12 provided by Allen Torell) was discussed. In this meeting it had been proposed that AEEC 585, Production Economics, be replaced with AEEC 526, Global Food Supply Chain Management (see attachments for course syllabi); currently AEEC 585 is part of the MBA AgriBusiness program which is taken in place of MBA program’s ECON 503, Managerial Economics; there are a total of five courses which are replacement courses within the MBA AgriBusiness specialization. The concern was expressed that AEEC 526 was similar to MGT 502, Operations Management, and that the replacement, while agriculturally specific, may not have the economic component that is required within the MBA program. However, the AEEB faculty proposed that “a level of economic principles equivalent to ECON 503 could be obtained by requiring MBA AgriBusiness students to pass ECON 371, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, with a B or better as a program prerequisite.” It was M/S/P unanimously that the AEEB proposal be passed.
• The GC reviewed a request by a student who had taken an equivalent course for MATH 142, calculus, at the University of Phoenix and received a C grade; she had requested an exception to the MBA requirement that students must have a B grade or better in prerequisite courses (see email of 10/17/12 notice of transcript receipt). The student had stated she would not retake this class and after discussion it was M/S/P that the students request be denied. John will inform the student of this decision.

III Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for 11/14/2012.

Minutes submitted by John Shonk, Secretary