Minutes of the Graduate Committee Meeting – December 1, 2009

Members Present: P. Benson, M. de Boyrie (Chair), G. Hampton, S. Mills, Dean K. Brook (ex-officio)
Members Absent: T. McGuckin, B. Corson

The meeting was called to order. Both the agenda and the minutes of November 10, 2009 were approved.

P. Benson updated the committee members on the progress of assessing quantitative skills in MGT 512. The proposed rubric was approved by those that will be teaching the courses in the near future and have agreed to change the way the course is taught in order to fit the assignment into the grading scheme.

The proposal to make a minor change to the admissions criteria found the catalog was moved and approved unanimously. The change consists in changing the word from: To gain admission to: To be considered for admission.

The idea of removing the admissions criteria from the Graduate Catalog and housing it in the CoB website was discussed. The rationale is to have it in a place where changes can be made without having to wait an academic year or more. Committee members agreed to table discussion to next semester.

C. Seipel, as chair of the admission sub-committee, presented the opinions of the members of the sub-committee on the draft proposal on admissions to the MBA program presented by the heads of departments. The sub-committee will continue to work on the draft.

The prerequisites required for admissions to the MBA program were reviewed. P. Benson will determine whether MGT 309 will remain as a prerequisite. By including FIN341 and ECON 251 as prerequisites, the BA500 course would no longer be needed. Committee members agreed to delay making a decision about the continuation of BA500 until the next meeting when C. Erickson will be asked to attend and comment.

The committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion to set the target goal that 80% of the MBA students will meet or exceed expectations on each MBA program learning goal.

The committee discussed preliminary findings on the assessment of MBA student writing skills. Further analysis is necessary to determine whether poor performance is attributed to poor critical thinking skills or lack of development of writing skills by international students. Additional analysis will also be performed to see how NMSU BBA-degreed students in the MBA program compare to others. The rationale is that if students that graduated from NMSU are deficient in this area the problem can be addressed at the undergraduate level.

S. Mills will work on suggestions made to closing the loop at the Master level and present it in our next meeting.

P. Benson created a list of the different types of MBA programs that currently exist (i.e., competitive program, open-enrollment program, extension of current BBA program, etc). This information will be used when meeting with Dean Carruthers on December 3rd at 1:30 pm.

G. Hampton will provide the committee members with the current draft of the Mission/Vision statement. The committee will continue to work on the draft after meeting with Dean Carruthers and determining his vision for the program.

Topics to be covered during the Spring semester: prerequisites for the MBA program and the possible deletion of BA 500, assessment, admission criteria, BA 590.

Change in composition of the Graduate Committee

1. S. Mills will depart the committee in order to dedicate more time to the assessment process. Carlo Mora will replace her.
2. P. Benson will leave on sabbatical next semester. A substitute for him has not yet being determined.
3. M. de Boyrie will step down as chair of the committee due to personal reasons. A new chair will be selected at the first meeting of the Spring semester.

Next meeting: TBA but it is expected to either January 7, 8 or 9, 2010

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