Draft of Minutes of the College of Business Graduate Committee Meeting of October 4, 2005:

Present: Erickson (chair), Jasso, Sankaran, Seipel, Weisinger; Ex Officio: Brook; Guests: Carruthers

The meeting convened at about 3:05p.m.

1. At the request of the Committee, Dean Carruthers met with the Committee to discuss the direction in which he would like to see the MBA program move. He noted his concerns about the summary of exit surveys provided by Terry Adler. In particular, he was disappointed to learn that many students see the MBA courses as repetitive of the undergraduate courses. He suggested that we might want to restructure the MBA to require more credits, waiving some of those requirements for students who have taken undergraduate business courses. He also reported on the aversion of the prospective students at LANL and WSMR to taking the GMAT and to taking deficiency courses at the undergraduate level. In conclusion, Dean Carruthers asked the committee to take a hard look at the MBA, making a commitment to a higher quality program, possibly requiring more credits, as noted above, and a 500 level sequence of courses to address deficiencies. Such a program with experienced people would be an executive MBA. We need to consider a dramatic change to serve students and raise quality.

As a first step Dean Carruthers suggested a focus group of MBA students, mixing those who went to NMSU as undergraduate business students and those who are from elsewhere. He indicated that we need to do what it takes to serve our students.

Because there needs to be some discussion of these matters with the faculty, Dean Carruthers will tell General Reese at WSMR that we are working to address his concerns about the GMAT and the undergraduate prerequisites.

Dean Carruthers also reported on a meeting with the Math Department concerning their interest in offering a masters in financial mathematics. This could involve a specialization within the MBA program or a math degree with students taking some of our courses.

2. In order to be prepared to discuss changes in the MBA program with the faculty around November 1, the committee agreed to meet weekly on Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. Chris Erickson will draft a document for discussion purposes, focusing first on the deficiency issues.

3. Chris Erickson distributed the learning objectives for the MBA that have been drafted by the committee members. It was agreed that the review of learning objectives could be useful in restructuring the MBA program. Judy Weisinger agreed to look into existing learning objectives at other universities or, as available, through AACSB to facilitate our efforts.
4. Kathy Brook asked for the assistance of the committee in evaluating the applications for the assistant advising coordinator position.

5. Kathy Brook also asked the assistance of the committee in interpreting certain rules relating to the MBA program. It was agreed that the LSAT could be used for admission in place of the GMAT by using equivalent percentiles. It was also agreed that MGT 590 need not be taken in the last semester for someone taking relatively few courses during the semester. Instead it could be taken during the last nine credits.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.