MBA Sample Delivery Models  
Oct. 27, 2006

To the Faculty from the Graduate Committee

Currently we are offering the MBA on campus and at two sites off campus, White Sands and Los Alamos. Except for a couple of experimental classes that have been delivered online and through interactive TV we are delivering the program using face-to-face delivery. There have been other enquiries by groups interested in having the MBA delivered off site. For example, Fort Bliss folks have expressed an interest in a program similar to White Sands and Los Alamos and the Carlsbad branch has expressed interest in an online MBA.

The Graduate Committee is concerned that the college might end up with a hodge-podge of programs that are unmanageable, or at least very burdensome, and have discussed the need for a unified delivery model for off site programs.

Below you will find some possible models for delivery and we will soon be calling a faculty meeting to discuss possibilities. As we discuss the possibilities we need to keep three things in mind.

1. We are committed to the continuation of our on campus program and, at least in the near term, are committed to continued face-to-face deliver of the MBA at White Sands and Los Alamos.
2. The current administration has sent clear and strong signals that we need to increase enrollments to justify continued and/or increased funding. Currently the MBA is carrying the load with regard to expanded enrollments.
3. Resource questions such as supplemental pay cannot be clearly addressed without knowing the type of program we settle on. In the past the administration has worked hard to find ways to reward faculty who participate in these programs.

The models outlined below are just suggestions to start the discussion. They are presented in random order. The committee is open to other suggestions.

Model A – Status Quo
Under this model we would decide to continue the programs as they exist without seeking to expand the MBA any further.

Model B – Completely Online
Under this model the entire MBA would be made available online and the degree could be offered without geographic limitation. The online program would be offered in tandem with the current program.

Model C – Online With Proctored Evaluations
Under this model the entire program would be converted to online delivery with the condition that each course would have a substantial portion of the grade based on proctored evaluations. This could involve asking students to report to campus on occasion or assigning proctors at designated sites (or the like).

Model D - Hybrid Distance
Under this model the entire program would be delivered online and by two-way interactive TV. Because students would need to report to and interactive TV site the program would not be universally available. All courses would involve proctored evaluations.

Model E – Cohort, Face-to-Face Delivery
This model would be a continuation of the path we are on. Cohorts would be organized at a particular site (like now with White Sands and Los Alamos) and faculty would go to the site to deliver the courses in person.

In addition there is the question of how to prepare students who do not have the prerequisite courses for admission to the MBA. Currently they must take the appropriate undergraduate courses before admission but we have been experimenting with combining the basics from two undergraduate courses into one graduate course. For example, BA500 combines Econ 251 and Fin 341 into one three-hour class. It seems in this case we could choose among at least three options.

- Insist that students take the undergraduate prerequisites
- Develop a series of 3 or 4 500-level classes on the model of BA500 and deliver them online (with proctored exams)
- Develop a series of 3 or 4 500-level classes on the model of BA500 and deliver them in person, perhaps on the cohort sites