21 Sep 2012 Minutes of the College Undergraduate (UG) Curriculum Committee

Members Present: Terry Adler, Dennis Clason, Michelle Jasso, Justine Adkisson, Michael Loera, and Greg Roth

Guests: Pookie Sautter, Sherry Mills

Absent: Kevin McNelis & Kathy Brook

Meeting Called to Order at 1300.

First Order of Business:

We reviewed A ST 311 Course Action Form (CAF) from the Dean’s office. Rick Adkisson asked that Math 120 be a prerequisite for A ST 311. This change aligns the prerequisite for A ST 311 with the prerequisite for A ST 251. Greg Roth moved and Michelle Jasso seconded a motion to accept the proposal to add this prerequisite for A ST 311. The results of the discussion were as follows:

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Second Order of Business:

We reviewed two CAFs from the Accounting Department for ACCT 251 and ACCT 252. The Accounting Department wants to realign these courses so that they match traditional sequencing found in most other accounting programs—“Financial Accounting” typically precedes “Management Accounting.” Consequently, the CAFs reflect that both courses are being renumbered and re-sequenced so that “Financial Accounting” will be called ACCT 221 and “Management Accounting” will be called ACCT 222 with ACCT 221 as a prerequisite.

This change also potentially serves as an outcomes assessment action based on an informal analysis of peer reporting institutions. The College of Business (CoB) tried to teach “Management Accounting” before, or concurrent with, “Financial Accounting” so that through the use of managerial, we could get students used to using financial data to guide decisions. Then, in the subsequent course, students could apply debit/credit concepts, financial statements, etc. after they were used to using accounting data. This approach did not work. Thus, the changing of sequencing of ACCT 251 and 252 back to the old way was necessary because there was no improvement in learning. Dennis Clason moved and Greg Roth seconded a motion to accept the proposal “as is.” The results of the discussion were as follows:

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

Third Order of Business:

Michelle Jasso provided a draft revision of the BBA Curriculum Map to reflect current deletions/additions to learning goals and/or changes to curriculum coverage. Discussion followed regarding that the map reflected our Spring 2012 committee decisions regarding curriculum coverage. The committee also discussed and agreed to identify at least one goal per core UG course. Dennis Clason moved and Michelle Jasso seconded a motion to accept the BBA Curriculum Map with changes. The results of the discussion were as follows:

Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

After our meeting, Greg Roth discussed with Liz Ellis our decision of using BLAW 316 as a potential course to teach and assess ethics. She explained that their department recently dropped the ethics chapter because they found that there simply wasn’t enough time in the semester to teach this topic and
that if ethics were taught in the course, something else would have to not be taught that is essential to law. BLAW 316 is a survey course and the topics we have been asked to cover include an overview of the content from roughly 12 law school 3 credit courses. She recommended, however, that BLAW 316 would be an excellent vehicle to teach critical thinking since this is already covered in the course. I have, thus, changed the BBA Curriculum Map to reflect this change from BLAW 316 as a potential course for “ethics” to “critical thinking.” This map is attached to these minutes.

**Fourth Order of Business:**

The committee discussed the topic of whether time limits were needed for course currency/acceptance for degree completion. Many schools impose a 10 year limit on course and degree completion and the committee believes that there should be a requirement for course completion. There are many reasons for this including, but not limited to, the need to motivate students to graduate in a timely fashion, retention and application of student learning, and meeting course prerequisites. The discussion evolved to how to balance a time limit to motivate students but not hurt part-time students who typically take longer to complete their degrees. There is also the issue of completion of lower versus upper UG core completion that could affect a time limit. For instance, Pookie suggested that we could impose a time limit once students started into 300-level courses that would require them to complete in 7 years. This would seem to balance the needs of full-time versus part-time students even though this might be very difficult to track. Dennis Clason agreed to talk with Nate to get statistics on the magnitude of part-time versus full-time in our college and their timeliness of graduation. Dennis stated that he should be able to get this information for our next committee meeting to facilitate a decision on this issue. Thank you Dennis and Nate.

**Fifth Order of Business:**

Sherry Mills provided a BBA Assessment Plan for this upcoming year. The assessment reflects UG learning goals, the measurement method used in assessment, and a timeline for assessment. Michelle Jasso moved and Dennis Clason seconded a motion to accept with a few minor changes. The results of the discussion were as follows:

> Motion passed with a 4-0 vote

The committee will explore in the Spring 2013 semester mechanisms by which the CoB can raise the quality of undergraduate student performance (e.g., changes to admission policies, degree requirements, major requirements, etc.).

The committee will also continue to review whether “Business Knowledge” needs to be added as an additional CoB goal. This is, of course, somewhat dependent on the “Diversity” goal being retained by our faculty since we have to weigh how many CoB goals are too many, just enough, or not enough.

I have attached an updated UG Curriculum Checklist for your information. Meeting Adjourned at 1430.

Next meeting is scheduled at 1300 on 12 Oct 2012.

Submitted by: Terry Adler, Chair