18 February 2011 Minutes of the College Undergraduate (UG) Curriculum Committee

Members Present: Terry Adler, Justine Adkisson, Greg Roth, Dennis Clason, Bruce Huhmann and Kathy Brook

Absent: Kevin McNelis

Guests: Sherry Mills, John Loveland, Pookie Sauter, Ed Scribner and Rick Adkisson

Meeting Called to Order at 1300.

First Order of Business:

The committee met with CoB Department Heads to clear up confusion on what was expected from them this semester for improving student performance in critical thinking.

Ed Scribner provided results on critical thinking from the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) that was presented at the teaching academy. He stated that two items were emphasized with regard to teaching critical thinking: 1. Publicize student and faculty expectations in learning critical thinking skills in courses and 2. Spend time on the task of teaching critical thinking. (See also Faculty & Staff Administration > Assurance of Learning Resources & Archives > Bachelor of Business Administration.)

Based on this information, Pookie Sautter, Rick Adkisson, John Loveland and Liz Ellis (in absentia) provided excellent comments on how our committee needs to provide a critical thinking process model and standardized critical thinking course objective that we can give to faculty members to adapt in their courses. There was much discussion on this topic and the committee agreed to develop both of these items as quickly as possible: 1. A critical thinking process model and 2. A standardized critical thinking course objective.

To facilitate the achievement of both of these actions and to improve the College of Business curriculum, we are inviting faculty who teach critical thinking in their courses to our next meeting. Our initial focus is to have Dale Spencer and ACCT 251 faculty discuss what they do in their courses. Rick Adkisson also provided a critical thinking facts sheet that Dale uses in ECON 304 that is quite useful.

Second Order of Business:

Bruce Huhmann provided two ethics course proposals, with appropriate NMSU Course Action Forms (CAFs), for our review and approval. The two courses proposed included a temporary, one-time only summer version (BA 490) and permanent version (BA 301) of the same course. The establishment of this course would be a “Closing the Loop” item to improve student learning in Goal 5b: Students can comprehend ethical implications in business. As discussed in our 13 Oct 2010 minutes, students did not achieve satisfactory performance in any of the four assessed items on Goal 5a last semester.

The committee suggested that we not review the BA 490 course yet given the uncertainty of summer classes this year. With regard to the permanent course BA 301, the short title on the CAF needs to be changed to “Corporate Responsibility & Ethics.” The effective date also needs to be changed from “Spring 2011” to “Spring 2012.” Dennis Clason moved and Bruce Huhmann seconded a motion to accept the proposed changes “as is” for BA 301. The relevant information is as follows:

Motion passed 4 yes and 0 no.

Meeting Adjourned at 1400. Next meeting is scheduled for 25 February 2011 at 1 pm in BC 134.

Submitted by: Terry Adler, Chair