11 May 2012 Minutes of the College Undergraduate (UG) Curriculum Committee

Members Present:  Terry Adler, Greg Roth, Michael Loera, Kevin McNelis, Kathy Brook, Justine Adkisson, Sherry Mills, and Dennis Clason

Absent:   Michelle Jasso

Meeting Called to Order at 1230.

First Order of Business:
We reviewed Dennis Clason’s analysis on differences between NMSU main campus and branch student performance in ACCT 251, ACCT 252, and ACCT 301. The data clearly shows a significant difference between main campus and branch student performance—main campus students outperformed branch students by a wide margin. Terry provided some feedback he had received from students regarding our main campus students intentionally taking ACCT 251 and ACCT 252 from specific professors at the branches to get easy “A” grades.

The consistent teaching of accounting principles in ACCT 251 and ACCT 252 across all NMSU providers is a major concern for this committee. Discussion entailed on the subject of how to best fix the problem of standardizing student learning, especially in all of our core courses, without violating articulation agreements and other state laws. Kathy Brook added that Dean Carruthers is aware of this problem. Terry agreed to meet with the Dean to discuss the issue and possibly brainstorm on finding a workable solution. Also, Dennis agreed to analyze main campus versus branch campus student performance in FIN 341 to see if significant differences are present and to what degree. He plans on doing this over the summer.

Second Order of Business:
The committee discussed the concept of “Diversity” with regards to its definition and role in our college from a broad-based view. There seems to be many definitions of diversity which complicate our presentation and assessment of the concept. Danny Arnold mentioned at his visit in the Fall 2011 semester that we are the only college of business he knows of that has a goal specifically for diversity. While diversity is an important topic, it may be one of those subjects that does not lend itself effectively to assessment relative to other areas. We may want to delete this goal from our college list and add another goal like globalization or subject knowledge. Again, the committee wants to emphasize that just because a subject is not included in our set of college goals does not mean that the subject is not important or that it is not taught in our college. We simply are not going to assess it at this time. We agreed to review a set of rubrics provided by Sherry from other sources that do have diversity as part of their assessment process (i.e., colleges of education from around the country). This will hopefully provide us, as a committee, some context as to what specifically diversity is and is not from other institutions. Our committee is to review this over the summer. Terry also agreed to lead a discussion at the Fall 2012 convocation with our faculty about the future of including diversity as a goal versus something else.

Meeting Adjourned at 1320.
This is the final meeting of this calendar school year.
Submitted by: Terry Adler, Chair