Spring 2013 Status Report

NMSU College of Business Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

This report on the activities of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee for the Fall 2012 term is submitted to Faculty of the College in accordance with the College By-Laws. Our most significant accomplishment is shared with the Faculty of the College, that being the October 2012 site visit of the AACSB reaffirmation team. We completed the work necessary in preparation for the site visit and take pride together with the Assurance of Learning Committee and the College Executive Council in the results of the site visit.

The Committee met seven (7) times in the Fall term and held two virtual discussions via e-mail. We continue to work on the Assessment activities scheduled previously (see the Committee’s Fall Report for details).

In accordance with the vote at the Faculty Convocation to retain Goal 2 (Diversity) we have not eliminated this goal. Rather, we have asked an ad hoc committee (Professors Boje, Chavez, Rosile and Weisinger) to develop a definition of Diversity going beyond stereotyping and suggest assessment tools, evaluation rubrics and exercises to implement the revisions. We expect to complete this work in the Spring 2013 term.

Also scheduled for the Spring 2013 term is the review and analysis of the assessment data for Goal 1 (Written Communications) and Goal 3 (Critical Thinking). Data were collected in the Fall 2012 term.

Specific actions taken by the Committee were the approval of a number of Course Action Forms generated by the Departments. Beyond that obvious function, the Committee also took the following actions:

- College requirements for an undergraduate minor were changed to require a minimum of 12 credit hours in the College for a student to record a minor.
- Revised the Learning Goal Map to account for the Faculty-approved changes in the Learning Goals.
- Discussed the possibility of implementing time limits on completing bachelor’s degrees. It was decided to bring this matter to the Faculty for a vote. The Committee recommends adopting an 8-year time limit. Other Colleges in the University have 5 to 10-year time limit policies. We intend to bring the matter to the Faculty in the Fall 2013 Convocation.

Finally, the Committee discussed possible mechanisms for raising entrance requirements for the College. In the reaffirmation meetings with the Curriculum Committees, the review team discussed the possible benefits that would ensue from raising admissions standards. The Committee and the CEC note that there three
possible mechanisms that could be used to raise the College’s performance expectations. The first, obvious method is to simply raise admissions requirements for freshmen and transfer students. This is a University matter and beyond the College’s control at least in part. A second mechanism would be to raise the overall graduation GPA requirement. This is within the College’s control, but it is a post-hoc mechanism. The third mechanism is to put a GPA requirement for advancement to upper division courses. The specific proposal is to require:

- An overall 2.0 GPA at the time upper division classes are started;
- In addition, a 2.5 GPA is required in a set of classes including BUSA 111, BCIS 110, ACCT 251, ACCT 252, ECON 251, ECON 252, A ST 251 or 311.
- Adding a minimum grade of C to MATH 142.

The College Executive Council brought this proposal to the Committee. The Committee endorses the proposal. We concur with the view that this is within our legitimate control and does not require University approval. It does not eliminate anyone on the basis of their performance in secondary school. It represents a modest increase in performance standards. Aside from the “C” requirement for MATH 142, the proposal does not affect other Departments. It also sends a desirable signal to students that they should prepare early for their business courses.

Finally, the Committee thanks Terry Adler for his long-standing service to the College as Chair of the Committee.