Undergraduate Committee
August 31st 2007 Meeting
Minutes and Related Information

Members present: Bruce Huhmann (outgoing chair), Randy McFerrin, Kathy Brook (ex-officio), Carolyn Chavez, Rusty Calk (incoming chair), and Tim Query.

Members absent: Carolina Molina (student member) and Justine Adkisson (ex-officio)

Visitors: Bonnie Daily (Head, Mgt. Dept.), Larry Tunnell (Head, Acct/BCS Dept.), Kerry Alt.

Meeting started: 1 pm

ITEM 1. Bonnie Daily proposed that BUSA 421 be renamed MGT 421 because (a) the course represents about 2000 SCHs per year that MGT does not get credit for under Jennifer Taylor's computer system, instead they are reported for the marketing department and (b) the course is integrated, but only management is responsible for teaching it. Carolyn Chavez pointed out that the upper administration has said they are going to take care of this problem for a year now, but they haven't. Bonnie Daily said that another reason her department would like the course renamed MGT 421 because she is currently requesting another position and wants her department to show those hours. Larry Tunnell pointed out later that it is the departments overall package not just the SCH as reported on Jennifer Taylor's computer system that matters in getting a new position, and that the Management Dept. should report the BUSA hours for which it is responsible. Carolyn Chavez replied to Larry Tunnell that regardless of what is supposed to be used for position allocations (of which she admitted not knowing), the administration denied a request for one new position for Management in April 2007 based on the fact we were a yellow designation (based on SCHs reported at the University Level).

DISCUSSION OF ITEM 1: Renaming BUSA 421, Integrated Business Concepts, to MGT 421 involves two separate issues. One is the responsibility of the Undergraduate Cte. The other is not.
(a) The nature of BUSA 421 as an integrated class and part of the core curriculum is the Undergraduate Cte.'s responsibility. The committee previously had an overview of BUSA 421 on its agenda for this year (see the committee's Fall Convocation Report) and incoming chair, Rusty Calk, has expressed a desire to begin the procedure ASAP. This will involve a thorough review of course aims, materials and meeting with instructors, etc.
The Undergraduate Cte. will then make a recommendation to the COB faculty based upon the needs of our students, AACSB standards, etc.

Randy McFerrin, Rusty Calk, Kathy Brook and Tim Query pointed out at various times that it was their belief that the content of BUSA 421 pulled from and integrated various business disciplines in business cases and was, thus, an interdisciplinary course. Bruce Huhmann indicated that he would like to see an interdisciplinary course at the beginning and at the end of the business core.
(b) The SCH allocation is NOT the responsibility of the Undergraduate Cte.
While the committee agreed that the any dept. teaching a course should be given credit for all past and future SCHs generated by that course, this issue is much larger than BUSA 421 and needs to be handled on a university-wide level.

Both Kathy Brook and Bonnie Daly reported that since November 2006, they have been working to get the SCH calculation corrected but have not succeeded. Carolyn Chavez brought up the issue of ethics in knowingly presenting incorrect data in reports used to make important decisions.
Carolyn Chavez stated by doing nothing, we send the wrong message to an administration that chose not to take corrective action.

Rusty Calk, Kathy Brook, and Bruce Huhmann brought up that the issue affects many departments and colleges and should be handled at the University level.
For example, currently, if a course is cross-listed (e.g. an ECON class, taught by the economics faculty is cross-listed as an AG ECON class, then AG ECON currently gets the SCH for their students not ECON; or currently the Management Dept. receives SCH for MGT 335 although Economics teaches the course). Rusty Calk warned that renaming BUSA 421 to MGT 421 purely for SCH reasons could cause other depts. throughout the university to request renaming all courses that are currently cross-listed, team-taught, or rotated through departments to grab the SCH associated. Kerry Alt mentioned BUSA 111, which is currently taught by ECON and ACCT, but has rotated through other COB departments. Would BUSA 111 need to be renamed? Would we need to rename it every time it was taught by another dept?

Bonnie Daily and Carolyn Chavez replied that BUSA courses taught or rotated among different departments do not fall into the same category as a course taught by only one department. Bonnie Daily and Carolyn Chavez also stated that it was unfair to compare the problems associated with cross-listed courses with this issue as they are different problems that require different solutions if any. Carolyn Chavez stated that any problems with cross-listed or team-taught courses should also be fixed. She made a statement that “two wrongs do not make a right or justify another wrong.”

Kathy Brook mentioned that she has gotten agreement with the AG College as well as among all the COB depts. to reallocate SCH based on the dept. of the faculty member who teaches the course. In fact, some discussion of the issue has occurred in the Associate Deans Academic Council (ADAC) and other associate deans have indicated similar concerns and some have threatened to eliminate cross listings of courses to avoid giving up credits for courses they teach. She also conveyed some optimism that central administration would address the issue of reassigning SCH based on the department of the instructor.

In the interest of full information, reproduced below is a memo received by Kathy Brook on August 9th from the Budget Office. This memo was mentioned at the meeting, but not circulated at the meeting. It is included here as additional information for those interested.

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If a College wants to make a case for reassigning a course, they need to formally move the prefix/course through the Registrar. Jennifer has asked Susan Grotevant or her designee to meet with the VPSS staff to work out a process by which this can occur, that won’t interfere with our ability to analyze data over multiple years.

That process will most likely include formal review and approval through the Provost’s office. The work that you’ve done to date in this regard will be useful in supporting your requests for changes through that process.

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MOTION: Rusty Calk pointed out that a full review of BUSA 421 is on the agenda for undergraduate committee this year. Rusty Calk moved to table the motion to rename BUSA 421 as MGT 421 until the committee fully reviewed the course and whether or not it is indeed integrated as well as whether or not the upper administration moves forward with properly reassigning SCH to where they are generated. Carolyn Chavez stated that these were two different issues. Seconded by Tim Query. Vote: 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

FOLLOW-UP TO ITEM 1: The Management Dept. later met on this issue. The following is Bonnie Daily's report on that meeting that she asked be included in the minutes.

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This past Friday Sept 7th the Mgt Faculty met to discuss the BUSA 421 SCH issue. The Mgt faculty agreed that the issue is important however the Mgt Faculty agreed to accept the undergraduate committee’s and Kathy Brook’s suggestion to wait and see if the new Provost will address the re-allocation of SCHs in the near future. The Mgt Faculty will continue to be good citizens of the COB and support the BUSA 421 classes while not receiving credit. However, we expect and strongly desire that this issue will be clearly resolved in some manner in the near future.

A separate issue is the review of BUSA 421. The Mgt Faculty are happy to provide any information on the review of 421 however one of the key players in teaching 421 is currently on sabbatical this semester. In addition, the recent, somewhat tense discussions, of the prefix issue of 421 in the undergraduate committee may make it an inopportune time to review the content. It is my recommendation that the committee continue to table the review until next semester when time and distance will have created an avenue for an easy participative review with all pertinent parties available to contribute.

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ITEM 2. Kerry Alt presented course change forms for BCS classes. Here is a summary:

-- BCIS 122: change of prerequisite to add CS 110 as an alternative to BCIS 110G.
-- BCIS 222: change of prerequisite to delete MATH 230 as a requirement and delete CS 187 as an alternative to BCIS 122.
-- BCIS 322: change of title.
-- BCIS 455: change of prerequisite to add BCIS 350 and allow for concurrent enrollment in BCIS 322
-- BCIS 470: expand list of accepted pre- and co-requisites.
-- BCIS 485: Prerequisite change to require a C or better in BCIS 338 or BCIS 350 or ACCT 452.

DISCUSSION. Some discussion of whether MATH requirement for one of the courses in the catalog was correct. Kathy Brook looked into it. Randy McFerrin moved that the changes be accepted. Tim Query seconded. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Larry Tunnell presented a course change form for ACCT 252. Change of prerequisite to make ACCT 251 strongly suggested rather than required. Rationale: It would remove the necessity of manually overriding Banner everytime an HRTM student needed to take this required course. But for COB students they would still be required to take both. Rusty Calk moved acceptance. Carolyn Chavez seconded. Vote: passed unanimously.

ITEM 3. Elections for officers for the 2007-2008 school year. Rusty Calk as the only tenured faculty member on this contentious committee generously threw his hat into the ring for the office of chair. His offer was overwhelmingly accepted by the other committee members. Since Randy McFerrin had left early for another meeting and given the great faith of the committee in his workmanship and organizational ability, he was nominated and seconded for the position of scribe/notetaker. The vote was unanimously in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 2:01 pm.