

DRAFT

Minutes

MBA Committee

Warrington College of Business Administration

Wednesday, April 2, 2008

2:00 PM

224A Matherly

Members attending: Ginny Maurer, Janice Carrillo, Alan Sawyer, Sandy Berg, Mahendrarajah Nimalendran

Also attending: Alex Sevilla, Selcuk Erenguc, Ana Portocarrero, Kara Cupoli

Agenda items:

- I. Approval of December 2007 Meeting Minutes: The minutes were approved with the following correction to item two: "As a result of the discussion, the committee will postpone the implementation and will present it to the graduate faculty for their feedback and approval."
- II. Grade Distribution and MBA Student Accountability/Behavior: Sevilla informed the committee that the document was approved during the September 2007 MBA Committee meeting and during the March 19th faculty meeting. After the March 19th faculty meeting, the following information was added to the document: if students must miss class, they will be required to notify their professors and MBA programs office. Sevilla discussed distribution and implementation plans for new cohorts & current cohorts. The document will be distributed during the new student orientation. Sevilla plans to participate in the new student orientation to emphasize the importance of understanding the grading policy and student accountability. The document will also be distributed to current students. Sevilla will inform existing cohorts that even though the grading policy does not apply to them, they may still be impacted by it if faculty members decide not to make a distinction between old and new students. Berg suggested sharing the policy with the MSM program. Maurer suggested sharing it with the Master's Committee. Carrillo said she discussed the policy in her class and felt that her students did not seem to have a problem with the grade distribution, but they had a negative reaction to the no laptop policy.
- III. Curriculum Items
 - a. ISOM concentration & certificate changes were reviewed via email on March 5, 2008. The proposal to change the name from DIS to ISOM was unanimously approved for both the concentration and the certificate.
 - b. GEB 6930 – MBA Global Studies Program– Russia: Cupoli informed the committee that they are moving forward with Fall 2008 trip and are currently working on the syllabus. A formal new course approval will be submitted after the successful Fall 2008 trip. Cupoli said that Roy Crum took a preliminary trip to Russia to work on the itinerary. The breakeven number is 25 students, and the maximum is 39 students. The cost per student is \$2,750, which includes airfare, lodging, transportation in Russia, and some meals. Currently, 14 2nd year students have committed to the trip. Cupoli said that they will promote the trip to incoming 1st year students and will open it up to WPMBA students, specialized masters students, and UF MBA alumni. Some of the roadblocks to overcome include operation details (financial, travel, etc.) and a time conflict with module 1 final exams. Cupoli explained that the Kremlin will be closed on Thursday, so students would need to leave on the Tuesday of finals week to be able to make the visit. Cupoli asked the committee for feedback on whether or not it was possible for students to leave on Tuesday or if the dates had to be changed. Maurer suggested contacting the professors teaching

module 1 classes to determine if there are any problems. If there are conflicts/problems with particular courses, they should notify students.

- c. GEB 6930 – MSE Global Studies – Ireland: Cupoli explained that the MS-Entrepreneurship program is requiring for all of its students to participate on the study tour to Ireland during Fall break 2008. Some MBA students have expressed interest in participating in the MSE Global Studies – Ireland trip because of its focus on entrepreneurship. Sevilla asked the committee whether or not the MSE trip should be an option for MBA students, and if so, what the syllabus would need to include for MBA students to credit for it. Maurer said that she would like to have a backup plan in case that the Russia trip gets cancelled. Maurer stated that she would like to see a syllabus modeled after the MBA trip syllabi and to see an academic (faculty) running the program. Cupoli said that she would get more information on the MSE trip leader and program syllabus.
- d. FIN 6642 – Global Entrepreneurship:
 - i. A motion was made (Sawyer) and second (Nimalendran) to approve for the course to count toward the management concentration (in lieu of GEB 6115). The committee passed the motion.
 - ii. A motion was made (Sawyer) and second (Berg) to approve that GEB 6115 and FIN 6642 cannot be taken together for MBA credit. The committee passed the motion.
- e. Real Estate Concentration: A motion was made and second to approve the changes from Dr. Ling. The committee approved the motion.
- f. REE 6930 – Intro to Real Estate: Sevilla explained that Intro to Real Estate (1 credit) would replace “Groups and Teams” (1 credit) in the Internet MBA Program (one & two year). Sevilla said that Jeff LePine agreed to cover material from “Groups and Teams” during the student orientation, so it would not be necessary to offer a separate course. Some committee members raised concerns about requiring the Intro to Real Estate because it might not be relevant or of interest to all students. They suggested adding a 1-credit leadership, capstone or strategy course that would be relevant to the majority of the students. Others stated that the curriculum already has required courses (e.g. Marketing) that are questionable and that the MBA curriculum should be reviewed. Sevilla said that he liked the idea of adding a 1-credit strategy course, but that the program needs to be conscious of existing resource limitations. Erenguc said that a strong consideration needs to be given to faculty availability. Erenguc suggested offering the course for two years and evaluating it in the future based on students’ feedback. A motion was made and the committee approved the motion (3 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstained).

IV. Assurance of Learning Project: Cupoli said that the feedback was to make the objectives concise and to focus on fewer goals. She explained that they encountered some difficulty mapping the goals and objectives and finding ways to evaluate them. Cupoli said that they were planning to get feedback from the Advisory Board. Maurer explained that for a leadership course, for example, they would need an external evaluator (not the instructor) to assess students individually. She said that it was unlikely to get external evaluators and that that process would add a new dimension to faculty work. Some of the suggestions that came out of the discussion included: a) dividing objectives/goals among different courses so that not everyone has the same objectives; b) integrating broad goals into strategy course and asking the faculty to evaluate students; c) asking 2-3 faculty members to evaluate students at the beginning and end of the program (e.g. “End-Cap” = Capstone + MBA + EDGE).

- V. EDGE Program – Curriculum Proposal: Sevilla said they will seek formal approval at the Fall 2008 meeting and plan to implement the course in Summer 2009. He informed the committee that they are reviewing the budget and resources (Hough endowment funds) for course. He asked for feedback on the

resources available to develop the course. Erenguc said it would be important to first determine what resources are needed. Cupoli is working with DOCE Leadership Development Institute to determine how much it would cost for them to operate the EDGE program.

A motion was made (Sawyer) and a second (Berg) to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ana Portocarrero