Summary of Recommendations to Improve BSBA/BABA Student Learning Outcomes (DEC '11)

1a. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of economics, finance, accounting, marketing, operations management, organizational behavior, business law, information technology, business statistics, and social responsibility.

ETS Cohort Data: IBA and transfer students do not do as well in accounting as traditional students. Consider some sort of upper-division accounting course....or possibly add a few pretaped lectures in FIN 3403.

Accounting Item Analysis: ACG 2021 Financial Accounting will place greater emphasis on financial ratios. ACG 2071 Managerial Accounting will utilize the recently added fourth hour of the course to discuss the topic of standard cost accounting. There may be accounting topics from ACG 2021 Financial Accounting and/or ACG 2071 Managerial Accounting that might be appropriate to add to FIN 3403 Business Finance as pretaped lectures. These pretaped lectures might be particularly important for student who did not complete ACG 2021 and/or ACG 2071 at the University of Florida.

Business Law Item Analysis: Additional emphasis will be placed on the following topics: the difference between depositions and interrogatories, business formats such as incorporation and limited person liability, contractual remedies, per se crimes, and the philosophical underpinnings of law (e.g., Kant, Hobbes and Rawls).

Economics Item Analysis (micro and macro): Additional emphasis will be placed on the following topics: the mechanics of open market operations, the Fisher equation, benefits of international trade, the potential harm of monopolies, and profit maximization.

Finance Item Analysis: The faculty reviewers are concerned that students are too focused on calculations at the expense of a solid understanding of the principles of finance. Accordingly, the faculty will continue to spend the early part of class discussing current events. Additionally, greater emphasis will be placed on conceptual questions and financial definitions. This will be accomplished through a redesign of quizzes and exams.

Management: Additional emphasis will placed on personnel selection, Herzberg's two-factor theory of motivation, group cohesiveness, organizational structure, and performance appraisals.

Management Science and Probability Statistics: Faculty should work to coordinate the topics covered in QMB 3250 and MAN 4504. Student did not score well on set theory, something that they should have recalled from STA 2023. Additional emphasis

will be placed on forecasting. As an aside, student performance likely suffered due to the timing of the ETS exam (i.e., early in the term before certain concepts/topics were covered). Accordingly, SB program staff will attempt to move the administration of the ETS exam as close to the end of the term as possible (i.e., week twelve instead of week eight).

Marketing: Additional emphasis will be placed on the following topics: market entry strategies and marketing research concepts (e.g., unaided recall, aided recall, etc.).

1b. Specify and implement a framework for identifying a business problem and develop alternative solutions and a set of evaluation criteria.

Recommendation: The data from QMB 3250 Business Statistics suggest that students are achieving the objective. Recommend no change

2a. Specify and implement a framework for identifying a business problem and develop alternative solutions and a set of evaluation criteria.

Recommendation: Some of the MAN 4504 Operations Management items suggest that there is room for improvement on assembly line efficiency as well as the calculation of a breakeven point. The QMB data that were provided are not a good fit for objective 2a. For the next comprehensive data review, consider other core courses/QMB items.

2b. Assess the outcomes of a course of action and make appropriate adjustments.

Recommendation: The MAN 4504 Operations Management data suggest that students are achieving the objective. The items from QMB 3250 Business Statistics do not fit well with objective 2b. The QMB data that were provided are not a good fit for objective 2a. For the next comprehensive data review, consider other core courses/QMB items.

3a. Write business documents clearly, concisely, and analytically.

Recommendation: The FIN 3403 Business Finance and GEB 3213 Professional Business Writing data suggest that the students are writing well. The percentage of students who "exceeded" the standard is high in all areas. Suggest the faculty raise the

expectation of the students when the percentage of students exceeding the standard is above 50%. The exception is grammar. The percentage that exceeds should be higher than 67%. The faculty should consider ways to reduce the "does not meet" percentage to 5% or less. In GEB 3213 Professional Business Writing, the following categories had "does not meet" results that exceeded 5%: grammar (10%), argument (9%), and editing (8%).

3b. Speak in groups and in public clearly, concisely, and analytically, with appropriate use of visual aids.

Recommendation: The GEB 3218 Professional Speaking data suggest that the students present well and appropriately use visual aids. The percentage of students who "exceeded" the standards is high in many categories. Suggest the faculty raise the expectation of the students when the percentage of students exceeding the standard is above 50%. The faculty should consider ways to reduce the "does not meet" percentage to 5% or less. In GEB 3218 Professional Speaking, the following categories had "does not meet" results that exceeded 5%: delivery (14%), body of speech (11%), conclusion (10%), and introduction (7%).

4a. Define the ethical responsibilities of business organizations and identify relevant ethical issues.

Recommendation: The data from MAR 3023 Principles of Marketing and BUL 4310 Business Law suggest that the students are achieving this objective. However, many of test items from BUL 4310 Business Law do not seem to correspond with Objective 4a. For the next comprehensive data review, consider other core courses/BUL items.

5a. Understand how the business environment, including culture, differs across countries.

Recommendation: The data from MAR 3023 Principles of Marketing, GEB 3373 International Business, and the ETS Major Field Test suggest that students are achieving this objective. Recommend that the faculty in ECO 2013, ECO 2023, and GEB 3373 consider placing greater emphasis on the following topics: how exchange rates affect imports/exports, comparative advantage, market entry options, and the international monetary system.

5b. Possess awareness of cultural differences and how these differences affect business decisions.

Recommendation: The data from GEB 3373 International Business suggest that there is room for improvement in this area. For five of the nine items, fewer than 75% of students responded correctly. Provide these data to the new instructor in GEB 3373 International Business for consideration.

6a. Identify characteristics and roles of groups and teams.

Recommendation: The data from MAN 3025 Principles of Management suggest that students are doing fairly well on this objective. However, there were five of twelve items on which fewer than 70% of the students responded correctly. Those areas include managing virtual teams, naming the typical members of a continuous improvement team, and definitions for the following terms/concepts: formal groups, problem-solving teams, and self-managed teams. Recommend that the MAN 3025 instructor consider placing greater emphasis on these topics.

6b. Identify characteristics and roles of managers and leaders.

Recommendation: The data from MAN 3025 Principles of Management suggest that students are doing well on this objective. There was only one item out of twelve on which fewer than 70% of the students responded correctly. That item addressed the three recommended ways that leaders can effectively cope with change. There was one item that had only 71% of students respond correctly. The topic concerned task structure in the contingency leadership model. Recommend that the MAN 3025 instructor consider placing greater emphasis in these areas.