

Graduate Committee Meeting

October 10, 2012

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Dr. Randy Pembrook.

Those present included:

Phyllis Berry, Bob Boncella, Shirley Dinkel, Kimberly Harrison, Andrew Herbig, Martha Imparato, *Marian Jamison, Mark Kaufman, Bruce Mactavish, *Jim Martin, Pat Munzer, Brian Ogawa, Randy Pembrook, *Tim Peterson, Dave Provorse, Suzie Pryor, Michael Rettig, Brenda Ridgeway, David Sollars, Courtney Sullivan, Cindy Turk, Kayla Waters, Harrison Watts

*Designate, Presenter/guest

1. A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes and was seconded. September 6, 2012, Graduate Committee Meeting Minutes were approved without objection.
2. Dr. Pembrook asked Dr. Sollars to present the School of Business' Master of Accountancy (MAcc) proposal. Dr. Sollars explained that with the approval of accreditation for the School of Business and with the addition of new faculty he felt it appropriate to consider a Master of Accountancy. Dr. Sollars introduced Dr. Martin and turned the presentation over to him.

After a presentation regarding the research completed and work accomplished in the development of this Master degree, thoughtful questions arose and were answered by Dr. Martin. Those questions included the following:

- **Our current system considers five (5) years of course work or 150 credit hours as a bachelor's degree. With the new program we consider 5 years of course work totaling 150 credit hours as four (4) years towards bachelor and the fifth year as a completion of the master's in accountancy. If a student decides midway in the program to no longer participate will he/she receive a Bachelor's degree?** -Yes
- **In developing the program has there been consideration of changing course numbering?** -We have considered this, but have opted for the current system.
- **What is the potential growth of the program?** -The MAcc is a terminal degree in regards for sitting for the CPA exam. In addition a passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act has made CPAs very prized among corporations, small business and accounting firms. This puts a high demand on the available and graduating MAcc students or MBA students. We expect that in the future 20 students will be continuing on to the MAcc program from Washburn University, 10 students would come from other schools, and a significant percentage of international interest. Surrounding universities cannot keep up with market demand.
- **What about staff and funding?** -Accounting faculty cost more to hire and keep as they are in very high demand. We needed six (6) full-time faculty members in accounting. The Business school admission requires a \$45.00 bump in tuition costs for undergraduate students. The cost is even more for graduate students. This should be sufficient to maintain 20 graduate students and appropriate faculty.
- **Considering the concerns of some who question yet another graduate program on a predominately undergraduate focused campus, why another graduate degree?**-It is a very good program which reaches out to students pursuing a potential terminal degree with a certification of public accountancy, which is the standard for excellence in the corporate world. The MAcc degree allows a graduate to enter into the marketplace immediately.

- **Are these course offerings primarily day-time or night-time?** –MAcc degree can be completed by attending night classes. We will provide what the students need as far as class scheduling. We are nowhere near offering this as an online MAcc degree. However we are looking towards that possibility.

A motion to accept the proposal was offered and seconded. Proposal passed without objection.

3. Dr. Pembroke asked that each subcommittee (Marketing, Capstone/Thesis Guide, Website, Hours/Fees, Numbering System, Graduate Council) consider two overarching question as they continue to work.
 - Who do you need to get involved in order to complete subcommittees work? (e.g., students, community, other faculty)
 - Should the Graduate Committee work towards creating university-wide policies or allow specific policies for each unit? (unified policies, benchmarks on thesis/work/projects, timelines related to these points)

Dr. Pembroke assigned homework for the subcommittees which is to produce an executive summary to report back to the full body.

4. Dr. Pembroke informed the Committee he would schedule future meetings on a monthly basis and would ask subcommittees to report their findings on a rotating basis. Dr. Boncella offered to present first in November. The subcommittee chairs approved the following timeline for reporting their findings back to the full committee.

Report Date	Subcommittee	Chair
• November 7, 2012	Marketing	Bob Boncella
• December 5, 2012	Common Form	Tim Peterson
• February 6, 2012	Capstone/Thesis Guide	Michael Rettig
• March 2013	Website	Kimberly Harrison
• April 2013	Hours/Fees	Harrison Watts
• May 2013,	Numbering System	Dave Provorse
• June 2013	Graduate Council	Cindy Turk (<i>de facto</i>)

5. Announcements:

Dr. Tim Peterson indicated that the common graduate application form is currently postponed until December. He will provide a revised timeline to the Committee.

Dr. Pembroke adjourned the Graduate Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m.