

## Minutes of Academic Staff Meeting November 6, 2009

**PRESENT:** Bruce Anderson, B. Bonner, R. Camp, R. Cismaru, M. Costiuk, R. Giberson, J. Gustafson, S. Khan, A. Lavack (Chair), T. Levit, W. Lockhart, A. Meis Mason, G. Peng, A. Pitariu, M. Rennie, A. Rubalcava, B. Schumacher, B. Shupe, M. Wang, L. Watson, Z. Zhang

**REGRETS:** H. Horan, S. Lukasewich

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

### **Summary of the proposed MBA International Program:**

Ron Camp provided a summary of the MBA International Program:

- Created due to increased demand from students for a full time masters program
- Increase in requests for international courses and an international perspective
- Shift in focus in the Strategic Plan to emphasize globalization
- Program set up with 15 courses (13 required + 2 electives) with classes from each functional area of business
- Students from any program can enroll with no need for business experience
- There are separate course schedule options for Domestic students and for International students

### **Discussion regarding the proposed MBA International Program:**

Faculty members discussed the proposed MBA International Program. Among the key discussion points were the following:

- Support the idea of a more international perspective.
- Concern arose that only 15 courses are required with no business experience, when the existing MBA program requires 10 courses + 8 qualifying courses + 2 years of business experience.
- Courses will be essentially the same as the GBUS courses, but with a new prefix and a revised description with more international focus.
- Combination of 15 courses offers a better grounding and more rigorous requirements than existing MBA program.

- Could include an optional Co-op term (although problems sometimes exist in trying to place International students in co-op terms). Could alternatively include an unpaid internship option to make it more attractive to potential employers.
- This new program will be full time and cohort based in order to run efficiently.
- We believe that sufficient market demand exists, based on the number and rate of inquires we get. Initial cohort size should be at least 20 students.
- The proposed MBA International program would show up on transcripts as an MBA with an International “major”.
- Need to consider issues around language requirements and language support of international students. Many international students seem to lack the language and communication skills necessary to fully comprehend the class and participate in discussions.
- Some suggested that this new MBA program could be integrated with our existing program, so that we have just one MBA program rather than two. Both full-time and part-time students would take the same courses and exit with the same degree.
- Others suggested that there is a need for a different program for people of different levels of experience, so we should leave our existing MBA program as is and implement this new MBA International program as something new.

The Graduate Program Committee will develop the program proposal before bringing it to a Faculty Council Meeting. Faculty members are encouraged to bring any additional concerns or changes to James Gustafson.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.