

**Minutes of the
Graduate Program Committee
March 23, 2006 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Room ED509**

Attendees: A. Lavack (chair)
H. Eger (ex officio)
J. Ito
Y. Kim
G. Miller
D. Senkow

1. GMAT Exemption for Candidates from US-sanctioned countries

The Grad Committee discussed the issue of MBA applicants from U.S.-sanctioned countries (Iran, North Korea, Cuba) who do not have access to the GMAT test. The committee was unanimously in favour of the following motion:

MOTION:

We recognize that MBA applicants from US-sanctioned countries do not have access to the GMAT test. Therefore, these students may apply for entry to the University of Regina MBA program without completing the GMAT test. Such applications will be judged on the basis of the remaining elements within their application package (i.e., Undergraduate transcripts; Resume indicating work experience; Personal statement; 2 Confidential Recommendations; TOEFL or other English proficiency scores where applicable).

2. Joint MBA-CMA program

Anne Lavack explained that adopting the model of the joint MBA-CMA program (currently offered by Queen's University) would require U of Regina to make significant changes in the content of our MBA program, as well as in the scheduling of our course offerings. Therefore, we are not planning to proceed with implementing the joint MBA-CMA program at the U of Regina at this time.

3. Plans for publicizing Advanced Standing for CA/CMA/CGA/Direxion

Anne Lavack discussed plans for publicizing the fact that MBA/MHRM students can now obtain advanced standing if they hold a CA/CMA/CGA or Direxion designation:

- Current students have been advised about this via e-mail.
- This topic will be discussed in the next MBA/MHRM newsletter, to be distributed next week.
- We are now mentioning this in the MBA/MHRM Information Sessions.
- We will be writing to the CA/CMA/CGA organizations and the Direxions program next week to let them know that their members holding appropriate designations are eligible for advanced standing in our MBA/MHRM programs.

- We will undertake some advertising in CA/CMA/CGA newsletters and/or magazines to publicize this fact.

4. Update on Executive MBA

Plans are going forward for introducing the Executive MBA in Fall 2006:

- An information session is being held Monday, March 27 at 5:00 p.m. at the Assiniboia Club. About 12 prospective students have already confirmed their attendance. Another dozen kits have been sent to individuals who are unable to attend. Faculty are invited to attend this event.
- Anne Lavack spoke to a group of 6 executives at SaskEnergy on March 13, who might be interested in the Executive MBA program.
- Anne Lavack will be speaking to CEOs of Saskatchewan health regions at their next meeting in Regina on April 12
- Efforts are on-going to schedule talks to other groups who have several members who might be interested.
- A mailing has gone out to HR senior executives at crown corporations and major companies around Regina, as well as to a list of individuals who have expressed interest.

Key issues that still need to be resolved:

- Need to obtain approval of the Board of Governors for the proposed program fee of \$24,000
- Need to obtain University approval to pay faculty above the current sessional instructor rates
- Need to find enough faculty members to cover the teaching needs of this program.

5. Update on enrolment figures in MBA / MHRM

Heidi Eger gave an update on enrolment figures in the MBA/MHRM programs:

- Total of 75 students currently in the programs (42 MBA / 33 MHRM).
- Have 6 new applications to begin in Spring/Summer 2006.
- Already have 8 new applications to begin in Fall 2006.
- Also have 5-6 Prestwick College students who hope to begin in Fall 2006 (assuming successful completion of their ESL studies).
- Anticipating 10-20 more students will apply to begin in Fall 2006, as a result of Information Sessions being held monthly in April/May/June/July.
- We have 10 students graduating at Spring 2006 Convocation.

Heidi Eger has attempted to organize graduation photos of students; she will contact Don Hall to see if it is possible to take more photos of our students at Convocation, including a group photo.

6. Update on Prestwick International College, Calgary

Due to staff changeover, Prestwick College has been unable to recruit enough students to start their March EAP (*English for Academic Purposes*) course. They have 4-6 students who will instead apply to the U of Regina ESL program to complete ESL-050, in order to qualify for the U of Regina MBA program. Prestwick College still hopes to begin an EAP class that will prepare foreign students for entry to the MBA program in January 2007.

7. Update on proposal to adopt U of S graduate fee structure

Anne Lavack updated the Grad Committee on Brian Christie's proposal for the University of Regina to adopt the same graduate fee structure that the University of Saskatchewan currently has (i.e., \$1,000 per semester Fall/Winter/Spring regardless of how many classes a full-time student takes; only \$500 per semester for part-time students). The Faculty of

Business Administration has written a letter requesting exemption from this proposed fee plan.

8. Master's Certificates (Graduate Certificates)

A discussion began on the issue of introducing Master's Certificates. There was enthusiasm for the idea as a tool for increasing student enrolment, and as a gateway into the MHRM and MBA degrees. Anne Lavack will prepare a more complete proposal for the next meeting.

Next meetings: April 13, April 27

Adjournment