

DRAFT

Minutes
MBA Committee
Warrington College of Business
Friday, December 8, 2006
10:00 AM
224 Matherly Hall

Members attending: Sandy Berg, Joel Houston, Ginny Maurer, Anand Paul, Alan Sawyer

Also attending: Alex Sevilla, Selcuk Erenguc, Fiona Barnes, Laura Corpus

Agenda items:

- I. Approval of September 2006 meeting minutes
- II. Curriculum Items – approved via email (Fall 2006)
 - a. MBA – World Leadership Program approval request
 - i. *Approved by MBA Committee via email on November 1, 2006*
 - b. FSOA courses approved toward MBA for Brittany Smith
 - i. *Approved by MBA Committee via email on October 6, 2006*
- III. Curriculum Item: Request to count sports administration courses toward MBA for Matt Okman
 - a. Alex Sevilla explained that the sports administration courses are 3 credits each. MBA students may earn a concentration in Sports Administration on their transcripts, but the courses taken for the concentration do not count towards the 48 MBA credit hours. Alex added that this question comes up often, so he would like the committee to come up with a permanent solution/guidelines for future cases like this.
 - b. In the case of Matt Okman, Alex Sevilla proposed that the committee consider allowing four 3-credit sports administration courses to substitute for four 2-credit MBA electives. In this case, rather than counting a total of 12 credits towards the MBA requirement, only eight credits would be counted towards the 48 hours.
 - c. Fiona Barnes added that the sports administration courses seem well-designed and should be acceptable for MBA credit. She mentioned that there are students interested in the concentration for next year.
 - d. Sandy Berg agreed that if there is a market, it would be useful to allow some credits to count towards the MBA requirement.
 - e. Alex Sevilla explained that there is a market for it, as seen by the MBA students who are taking the courses in addition to their 48 MBA hours. However, he noted that placement expectations about sports administration need to be made known to the students from the beginning.

- f. Selcuk Erenguc mentioned that he sees it as a good opportunity for students.
- g. Alex Sevilla added that Health and Human Performance would favorably respond to the committee's decision to accept the sports administration courses for credit towards the MBA.
- h. Ginny Maurer questioned the sufficiency of the courses to warrant MBA credit and would consider denying Matt Okman's request. She reasoned that most of the sports administration courses do not require the business core and are at a very basic level. Instead, Matt could be taking courses in the College of Business that build on the core courses.
- i. Fiona Barnes added that although the courses may not deepen the knowledge of the student, if it broadens their knowledge and educational experience, then it may be worthwhile.
- j. Ginny Maurer reminded the committee that there is a Master's in Sports Administration offered in College of Health and Human Performance. She suggested that the committee decide on a course-by-course basis which courses should be counted for MBA credit. However, in Matt's case, she expressed that he is going to law school so it seems redundant for him to take the courses for MBA credit.
- k. Dr. Erenguc suggested that the MBA programs should accept some of the courses or discontinue offering the concentrations completely.
- l. Alex Sevilla proposed that a future committee meeting should address the question of which elements would be an enhancement to the MBA program. He recommended that for every 3 credit course that is approved by the committee, that 2 credits will count towards the MBA (if the student actually completes the concentration).
- m. Sandy Berg motioned to approve Matt Okman's request to count the courses using Alex Sevilla's suggested method. The committee approved the motion to allow Matt Okman's sports administration credits to count towards a total of 8 MBA elective credits.
- n. Ginny Maurer motioned to have the committee create a policy on how concentration courses are counted in the future. The committee approved the motion.
- o. Alex Sevilla will draft a tentative proposal for the new policy for the next committee meeting.

- IV. Global Consortium MBA Program – Graduate council approval update
 - a. Selcuk Erenguc discussed the program, which has been approved by the graduate council. He will be going to Brussels to discuss certain details with the partners. He explained that Aston has asked UF to include an advanced finance course in the UF part of the program. The logo and marketing plan have been developed, but the first step is to get the Provost's approval. He added that he thinks the Provost will approve it, but the program cannot spend money on marketing until she gives her official approval. About 400,000 EUR is to be shared among the partners for marketing expenses. January 2008 is the official start date.

- b. Sandy Berg expressed concern about the size of the marketing budget and if the funds might be better invested in the traditional MBA program.
 - c. Selcuk Erencuc reasoned that the funds will be well spent because the new program will increase prestige and generate profits in the future.
 - d. Ginny Maurer mentioned that Vanderbilt started a similar program and that when she went on the recruiting trip, the alumni were very supportive of the program.
 - e. Selcuk Erencuc concluded that he needs the Provost's approval as soon as possible so that marketing can begin in the next few months.
- V. Grade Distribution and MBA Student Accountability/Behavior
- a. Ginny Maurer discussed the need for having two faculty meetings on different days.
 - b. She asked the committee to give feedback on the wording of the document drafted by Alex Sevilla. The committee responded by giving suggestions on maintaining faculty discretion, distinguishing between different types of students, and making the language applicable to the students in the different types of programs. Alex Sevilla will be making the changes to the document.
 - c. For the Spring Faculty Forum, Ginny Maurer suggested that the draft document be distributed to faculty in advance.
 - d. Alex Sevilla expressed the importance of making sure all faculty members felt that they were encouraged to participate in an open dialogue by offering a retreat.
 - e. Sandy Berg suggested offering other information-sharing time for faculty during the retreat.
 - f. Alex Sevilla mentioned that he is not sure what the turnout would be for the retreat.
 - g. Selcuk Erencuc suggested that department chairs discuss the grading and student behavior issues in their faculty meetings.
- VI. Next meeting
- a. Date and time to be determined.
 - b. Alex Sevilla will give the MBA Program update

Respectfully Submitted,
Laura Corpus