



## GRADUATE COUNCIL

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### Minutes of Meeting Held September 19, 2013

*Present:* Dean Zhu, Professors Reed, Boboc, Monaghan, Sridhar, Gatica, Plecnik, Ziolk, Sotiropoulos, Rutar, Bubenik, Resnick, Reinthal, Zingale, Kostas, Thornton, Schultheiss

*Absent/Excused:* Professors Wang, Regoeczi

*Guests:* Professors Raj Javalgi, Bruce McClain, Ron Mickler

Dean Zhu called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m. He stated that the course conversion process is proceeding. Graduate Council has approved and sent on all department proposals that we have received thus far. We are waiting on information from the BGES department but there are no new proposals to review at this time.

1. **Approve Agenda** – The Agenda was approved as written.
2. **Approve minutes from May 6, 2013, August 29, 2013, and September 5, 2013 meetings** - The minutes were approved as written.
3. **New Business**
  - ❖ Proposals from the Business College
    - i. The Accounting department is proposing admissions changes to the Master of Accountancy program.
      - Approximately 3-5 years ago the GMAT admission requirement was dropped for students with a 3.0 or above GPA. Subsequently international students are being admitted with very poor English language skills, in spite of taking the TOEFL.
      - In consultation with other College sources and Admissions' personnel, it is felt that the Verbal portion of the GMAT is a better indicator of English skills assessment.
      - Therefore the department is re-instituting the GMAT for international students for admission. The Verbal score will be used as a better indicator of the students' English skills.
      - Dr. Zhu questioned the acceptance of a minimum score of only the 5<sup>th</sup> percentile for the verbal portion of the GRE or GMAT. Will this be enough of an indicator? Dr. McClain shared that he has been advised it will be sufficient.

- An additional question was asked if it is known how many students score below the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile. These students will need remedial courses. Dr. McClain did not have that data. He felt they might lose some students because of the stricter requirements but the department has been experiencing students failing in their program. Hopefully this will alleviate some of those situations.
- **A motion was made to accept the admissions changes to the Master of Accountancy program. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.**
- A personal experience comment was made that a high score on the Verbal portion of the GMAT did not necessarily show good English communication, since this is a paper indicator. The TOEFL now includes a spoken component so the combination of written and spoken should be a better assessment.
- A suggestion was made to keep statistics of success rates “before” and “after” the admissions’ revisions.

ii. Master of Taxation-new program

- This new degree is a more marketable degree but also similar to a current track, Master of Accounting, Tax Track.
- The Master of Accounting, Tax Track still includes a background in accounting and business courses. Most Master of Taxation degrees do not include the heavy emphasis on accounting courses.
- The Master of Taxation will have different prerequisite courses, without the emphasis on accounting of the Track.
- No additional teaching resources will be needed.
- This degree will help attract more students because it will not emphasize accounting, the degree is more nationally recognized, and employers prefer the Master of Taxation degree over a Master of Accounting, Tax Track.
- Increasing student numbers from 40-50 to 75 would be a worthwhile goal but numbers could be doubled without increasing resources.
- The University of Akron has a Master of Taxation degree and companies in Cleveland are more willing to send their employees to Akron for the Master of Taxation degree rather than to CSU for a Master of Accounting, Tax Track.
- Collaboration discussions for cross-listed courses have been initiated with the Law School and would be a possibility to pursue further.
- The Tax Track would not be eliminated. This track is helpful for those students who wish to take the CPA exam.

- The admission requirements include taking the GRE/GMAT for international students to access verbal skills.
- Dr. Zhu is suggesting that the reference to the University of Akron relying heavily on adjunct faculty be re-written. It is felt this will not be well-received by the University of Akron and RACGS group during the voting process. Removing the reference to “relies almost entirely on adjunct faculty” and emphasizing CSU’s strengths would be a more positive proposal.
- **A motion was made and seconded to approve the new degree, Master’s of Taxation, with the removal of the reference to the University of Akron using mostly adjunct faculty for its program. The motion was approved unanimously.**

iii. New Graduate Certificate in Organizational Change

- The Management Department is proposing a new graduate certificate of 5 courses, 3 required and 2 electives.
- Data is uncertain as to how many students would be interested in completing this certificate, acknowledging that the subject matter is current and important.
- Dr. Zhu shared with Council members that the University will be looking closely at all our programs, certificates, degrees to access enrollment numbers. There are currently more programs than tenure track faculty members. Therefore, new programs will need strong justification.
- It was suggested that students enroll in the new Organizational Diagnostics course to receive training in organizational change rather than pursue a certificate.
- It is felt that the MLR-HR students would be more interested in this certificate, not the MBA students.
- Graduate Council members had several questions and reservations concerning the presentation of this proposal, including:
  - a. Information on the types of jobs available and whether this certificate would increase marketability.
  - b. Admission and exit criteria not clearly defined.
- Most Council members feel more information is needed before considering a vote on this certificate. **A motion was made to return the proposal to the department and request that the department provide more information/data on the following points:**
  - a. Data on student demand for this certificate (who and how many will enroll?)

- b. The impact on faculty resources (Assuming the new graduate courses require tenure track faculty, does that mean more adjunct faculty will have to be hired to cover lower level courses normally covered by the tenure track faculty?)
  - c. Jobs available in the market; are these skills in demand?
  - d. Information on the prerequisites, entrance and exit requirements
  - e. Are there similar programs anywhere else on campus (Psychology)?
  - f. Is there strong department faculty support for this program?
- **The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.**
- iv. Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Entrepreneurship (new)
- Associate Dean Javalgi gave an overview of the proposal and the rationale for its creation from two perspectives (business community and the University).
  - From the business community perspective, the northeastern Ohio economic area is becoming more vibrant with a number of small businesses interested in hiring interns in the entrepreneurship area. CSU has not been able to accommodate the requests. Other Ohio universities have been recruiting students from our area.
  - On the University front, all Deans are supportive of this proposal.
  - CSU Alumni with their own businesses have offered support financially and/or with internship requests.
  - In the proposal, an “ecosystem” has put together various units in the University and connects back to Technology Transfer for commercialization.
  - The Certificate includes 3 core courses and 2 electives for a total of 15 or 16 credits. There are no prerequisites to the courses.
  - Dr. Zhu asked for an estimate of enrollment. Dr. Javalgi used Babson College (Mass.) as an example. In the beginning, only a handful of students enrolled but now they have 300-400 students and are ranked #1 for the entrepreneurship program. Dr. Javalgi assumes 3-4 from each discipline until the CSU program grows.
  - Many Council members are very supportive of this proposal, could envision successful collaborations and offered suggestions.

- **A motion was made and seconded to approve the new graduate certificate in Entrepreneurship. The motion passed unanimously.**

v. Concentration in Entrepreneurship

- This concentration is for the MBA Business students
- The concentration includes 3 courses for a total of 9 credits.
- **A motion was made and seconded to approve the concentration in Entrepreneurship for MBA students. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**4. Graduate Council Representation & Standing Committees** – Available reports

- a. Faculty Senate – No graduate proposals were reviewed. The block schedule was discussed.
- b. University Admissions & Standards – No report
- c. College of Graduate Studies' Admissions & Standards – No report
- d. University Curriculum Committee – There are more graduate 4-3 proposals coming. The deadline (Oct. 1) is initiated from the Registrar's office. Dr. Kosteas suggested any departments considering submissions contact Janet Stimple to make her aware revisions are coming.
- e. Graduate Faculty Review Committee – There are approximately 9-10 applications from new faculty. Individual Colleges should be revising their Guidelines to align with the newly approved Graduate College guidelines. The new Guidelines will be instituted in Spring 2014.
- f. Petitions Committee – The first meeting took place. Dr. Schultheiss will have petition numbers at the October Graduate Council meeting.
- g. Grade Dispute Committee – No report
- h. Program Review Committee – No report
- i. University Research Council
  - There is a revamped Research web page, all are encouraged to visit.
  - There is a renamed undergraduate student research award and undergraduate student summer research award.
  - The University has a patent attorney to assist with faculty interested in applying for patents.
  - The University has a new Research Corporation.
  - There is a Faculty Innovation Fund, applications up to \$40,000. Applications for projects that can be commercialized are being sought and will be reviewed as they are submitted.

**5. Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Thursday, October 17 @ 2:00 p.m. in PH 200. If additional 4-3 course conversions are received, no additional meeting will be scheduled before the 17<sup>th</sup> date, in spite of the Registrar's deadline of October 1.

**6. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.