Graduate Council Minutes
May 5, 2005

Graduate Council met in Bond Hall room 274 on this date. Members in attendance were Dr. David Allen, Dr. Mark Bebensee, Dr. Kathy Brown, Dr. John Carter, Dr. Margaret Francel, Dr. Sheila Foster, Dr. Kathy Grenier, Dr. Will Johnson, Dr. Angela LeClerq, Dr. John Moore, Dr. Kathy Richardson-Jones, and Dr. Bob Steed. Executive Secretary Dr. Ray Jones stood in as Chair for Dr. Donald Steven.

The minutes of the April 7, 2005 meeting were approved as distributed.

Dr. Sheila Foster presented the first agenda item on the development of an International Business concentration within the MBA program. There will be no additional resources or financial implications placed on the program. Students would follow the current MBA curriculum, only take international business classes as their four mandatory electives. Dr. Foster provided a handout to the Council presenting the details of this concentration.

Dr. Allen addressed the issue of not requiring students to have a demonstrated competency in a foreign language. He believes that this additional requirement would strengthen the concentration and make it more competitive. Dr. Foster explained that this route may be desirable in the future, but for the initial foundation, a background in foreign language should not be required. Dr. Allen continued discussion on how it would be beneficial to start this concentration with all requirements in place and to not wait to create the foreign language requirement. Dr. Bebensee informed the Council that the Foreign Language Department does not currently have graduate level foreign language classes and that having this requirement could potentially deter students from the international concentration. Dr. LeClerq stated that this concentration should not be dependent upon language program and that focus should be on understanding international cultures, rather than a specific language, stating that most business talks are conducted in English. However, council members believed that it is beneficial to have the ability to speak one foreign language, rather than none at all.

Dr. Allen made a motion to amend the curriculum sequence, specifically section 2, part c. His proposal was to add an option (d) that states “Demonstrated competency in one relevant foreign language.” Dr. Richardson-Jones explained the difficulty in measuring a level of competency in this area, as related to her experience in teacher certification standards. Her concern was how this standard was to be defined. Dr. Bebensee stated that he requested the department of foreign languages become involved with the creation of a 2 semester course load of international language and culture. The East Asian minor currently has graduate level language courses, but Dr. Grenier stated how difficult the development was. Although undergraduate level language classes are available, the MBA program is only authorized to accept graduate level course offerings. Dr. Jones suggested following the selection process model for the TPM Certification program for the Engineering school as a guideline for deciding on pre-acceptance requirements.

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Dr. Foster and Dr. Bebensee explained that the typical MBA student does not have a business undergraduate degree, but is either involved in an engineering or technical field or are entrepreneurs seeking the fundamental business basics. Therefore, it is unlikely that these students will have a competency in a foreign language. Dr. Bebensee made a motion to amend Dr. Allen’s amendment on the foreign language statement to read, “Formal extended exposure in at least one foreign language.” Dr. Foster explained that there is no standard for measuring the amount of exposure a student has had. Dr. Jones suggested the Graduate Council agree in principle that an International Track in graduate business reflects the needs of our customers and as a strategic move for The Citadel, however the discussion requires a larger audience than the graduate audience since other schools and programs are affected. He stated that Dr. Steven would like this item be presented to Academic Board in the fall to show the importance of adding an international flavor to the MBA program and to obtain Academic Board support for the new concentration. Council members voted on approving the International Track in principle pending further discussion at the Academic Board. The vote was 9 in favor, 3 opposed. This amended proposal will be taken back to GPAC. Upon approval, it will be taken before Academic Board in the fall.

Dr. Jones presented the second agenda item on the CGPS catalog revisions. Each department head was presented a packet that includes a hard copy of their section, as well as all general information inside the catalog. Each department head is asked to make necessary revisions and set up an appointment with Dr. Jones during the month of June to review these changes. Projected end time for this project is by end of Summer II term in order to get the new catalog printed by Fall 2005 term.

Dr. Jones will be sending an email out to all Council members outlining the 2005-2006 Graduate Council meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Ray Jones