

Summary

ULM CBA 2005-06 Graduate Committee Meeting of September 19, 2005

Dr. Carl Kogut called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Also in attendance were committee members: Dr. William Barnett, Dr. Kathryn Jones, Dr. Donna Luse, Dr. Mingsheng Li, Mr. Miguel Perez, Dr. Larry Short, and Dr. Jerry Wall.

Dr. Kogut opened the meeting with a welcome to the members. Dr. Barnett was designated the committee secretary. Dr. Kogut turned the meeting over to Dr. Berry to discuss the committee's charges for this academic year. Dr. Berry discussed the responsibilities of the committee and particularly focused the work of the committee on reviewing the graduate curriculum.

The committee examined an issue in the wording of the graduate catalog concerning admissions to the MBA program. The last sentence of the Program Admission section on page 62 of the catalog contained the wording "Decisions by the Graduate Admissions Committee are based on a broad range of criteria, and no particular level of academic performance or test scores will guarantee acceptance or ensure rejection." Committee discussion focused on the confusing wording of this description. Dr. Wall moved to strike "ensure rejection" from the sentence, Dr. Jones seconded the motion. The motion to strike the sentence concerning scores and admissions in relation to acceptance was passed unanimously.

Mr. Perez raised the issue of how entrance test scores and grade point average (GPA) were used in evaluating new applicants for admission to the graduate program. The point of contention revolved around the situation of students who vastly improve their academic performance in the latter half of their undergraduate programs. Dr. Luse related her conversation with Dr. Virginia Eaton concerning using only the last 60 hours of a student's course work to compute an admissions score. This is apparently not an option according to the Graduate Studies Office. There was some disagreement between committee members on what hours to include in the computation of the GPA for admissions. Dr. Wall raised the issue of procedures by our competitors. The consensus of the committee was to postpone deciding on the matter pending further research and a review of the curriculum.

The committee then reviewed the Survey of Graduates. The Legal Business Environment as an area of study was seen as a shortcoming in the program. Alignment between the content of the MBA program and the test scores was deemed appropriate given the graduate curriculum and recourses. The committee also discussed the Enrollment Data for the past several academic years. Fall2005 back to Fall2004 was found to be in error. The ETS major area scores were also reviewed. The use of the ETS scores in evaluating the program was raised as an issue. General consensus of the members was that the scores should be examined further, but no action was taken.

Dr. Kogut assigned members to review the MBA programs at peer institutions with regard to admissions standards and procedures.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. 3 October.