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Graduate Curricula and Assessment Committee Meeting : 2014 : 03 : 07

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**USFSP COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
GRADUATE CURRICULA AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE (GCAC)
Minutes of Meeting on Friday, March 7, 2014 C.E.**

ATTENDING:

James Fellows, Chair
Karin Braunsberger
Gary Patterson
Maria Corton
John Jewell, POA Director, by invitation
Eric Douthirt, USFSP MBA Program, by invitation

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 9am. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the proposal from the Program of Accountancy for a new Master of Accountancy (M.Acc) at USFSP. The POA Director, John Jewell, attended the meeting to answer any questions from the GCAC. There were several editorial comments from the GCAC about better wording of the proposal and the need for some more clarity. The Director stated that these changes will be made in the final document.

Much of the time spent at the meeting was spent proposing questions to the Director that were insightful and will certainly be asked by others as the proposal goes forward, especially at the USF Board of Trustees level. For example, the question was asked whether the proposed M.Acc is sufficiently different from the M.Acc offered at USF-Tampa. A review of the proposal did indeed show that the USFSP M.Acc will be sufficiently different, in that it offers the unique specialty level of Forensic Accounting and Fraud Examination, as well as a tax practicum course not available in the Tampa M.Acc.

A discussion ensued as to whether there will be sufficient demand for the course. Eric Douthirt of the MBA program mentioned that there were 60 students already in the MBA program who have undergraduate degrees in accounting and are taking the accounting concentration in the program (Note: Upon later discussions with the chair after the meeting the number was adjusted to 45). Most of these students would more than likely want the M.Acc program as opposed to the MBA. Moreover, there are numerous students who graduate from USFSP that are in the M.Acc program in Tampa and who almost surely would rather be in the USFSP program.

Questions were also raised about whether the USFSP administration would adequately support the program with additional faculty and staff. Director Jewell expressed that not only this administration but prior administrations have fully supported this program and will provide the necessary resources. In addition Dean Ebrahimpour is highly supportive of the program.

After further discussion the GCAC voted unanimously, 4-0, to approve the program. The next step in the process is for the USFSP Graduate Council to act on the proposal.

In a related note, the GCAC approved via email vote on March 5 a new course proposal. The course, TAX 6147, IRS VITA Tax Practicum, has been offered as a special topics class for the past three years under the ACG 6936 Special Topics prefix. The new course proposal is simply a request for a permanent number to be assigned to the course. The course will become of the electives in the M.Acc program.

The meeting adjourned at 10am.