Minutes of Faculty Meeting

November 30, 2015

12:10 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

BusAd G-301

Attendees: Boo Chun Jung, Manu Kaiama, Hamid Pourjalali, Tawei Wang, John Wendell, David Yang, Jian Zhou, Mary Woollen, Jenny Teruya, Thomas Pearson, and Marlene Sagapolutele.

Excused: Liming Guan, Shirley Daniel, and Roger Debreceny

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of October 19, 2015 were approved.

**2. Director’s Report**

Pourjalali reported the feedback given to the faculty from his meetings with multiple firms. Pourjalali also shared the Dean’s objectives for fundraising.

*Dean’s Objectives:*

-Raise a $10,000,000 endowed fund (This is where scholarships would come from).

-Raise a $20,000,000-$50,000,000 endowed advancement fund (This would continuously generate funds for the college).

-If faculty would like to donate a $100,000-$1,000,000 to build a room for the college, it would be named after the donor.

Pourjalali also met with Manny August from Wells Fargo to discuss creating a scholarship fund of $50,000. August is open to the idea of donating $25,000 (putting in $5,000 each year) and will be asking his firm to match that.

**3. Distance Learning**

Pearson and Pourjalali reported that the curriculum committee is altering the MBA Distance Learning Program. With this change, the part-time MBA program will be eliminated. The only time a distance learning student can be part time is through exception. There will be approximately 35 students enrolled in the program. About 17-19 of those students are from Shidler and the rest from the Law School who are double majoring (Law and MBA)

Some faculty voice their concerns about eliminating the part-time MBA program because full-time working students will lose their ability to receive an MBA. Also, with this move, the number of MBA students will decline and it will the school’s tuition income.

**4. Grading Issues**

One of the issues raised by the advisory board has been inconsistent teaching coverage and grading. This is an issue when there are different faculty members teaching the same topic. The issue is mostly related to the following courses: ACC 201, ACC 202, ACC 409, and ACC 418. Pourjalali distributed the following two statements from Wendell and Daniel

Woollen discussed how students in Accounting 401 are lacking in motivation and preparation for the course. It might be necessary that students in Accounting 201 and Accounting 202 be instilled with better learning and studying habits/attitudes.

Faculty are concerned with those students who pass Acc 201 and Acc 202 without much of efforts, have a false impression that accounting is easy and become shocked in Acc 321. Below are suggestions to fix this assumption:

*Suggestions:*

-Have students from Accounting 460 come in as guest speakers to talk about how difficult the accounting courses are.

-Spread the word that course load needs to be lightened in order to do well when taking accounting courses.

*Other Suggestions provided by faculty during individual meetings with Pourjalali and during the current meeting:*

- Yearly discussion to better define the learning objectives.

- Consistent grading system to be used throughout the faculty (plus/minus or letter grade) (set and use a standard curve).

- Grade distribution should be based on a range (e.g. GPA for the class to be between 2.3 to 2.5, depending on the quality of students).

**5. Grade Distribution**

All accounting faculty needs to email Pourjalali their grade distributions. Grade distributions will then be analyzed and be discussed in future meetings. Pourjalali will create a spreadsheet to be filled by the faculty.

**6. Curriculum**

Learning Objectives should be reevaluated and made sure that the effectiveness is measured. Below are suggestions to better define and make more effective learning objectives:

*Suggestions:*

- Check on functional competence, i.e., students can do the accounting, and do it right.

-Assess AACSB learning objectives first. Then reexamine the course learning objectives.

- Maybe objectives do not need to be the main focus. Instead incorporating competency tests to make sure that students have the ability to perform basic accounting skills should be used.

**7. CPA Review**

We will attempt to offer CPA Review for a longer term. In order to finance it, one way would be for firms to sponsor a section in the CPA Review. Pourjalali urged the faculty to continue encouraging their students to sign up and better their success rate on the exam

**8. Databases**

Zhou and his committee will meet in order to provide the Dean’s office a list and costs of the databases.

**9. Faculty Hiring**

The SOA must plan for replacing a number of faculty members that may retire. Dean Roley has indicated that he would only hire graduates from a limited number of schools (including about 25 top public schools). Some faculty members requested to see the list and Pourjalali will ask Dean Roley to provide the list in the next meeting.

**Others:**

Some faculty suggested an informal orientation meeting with food and fun to start the AACSB application process.

**AACSB Support by the Dean’s office**

Pourjalali reported that so far seven faculty are in support without reservation, one in support with some reservation, two indifferent, one indifferent but twards “no” and one against separate AACSB accreditation for the School of Accountancy. He reported that the Dean has supported verbally the application and believed that the SOA will be granted if it applied. Furthermore the Dean is willing to financially support the application via coordination with Pourjalali and by using expandable funds available in Don Corbin Chair. Faculty requested that the Dean attend an SOA faculty meeting to further discuss his support and process of AACSB.