3. MBA Degree Program Outside of the Graduate School - Ilene Kleinsorge, Dean and Jim Coakley, Associate Dean, College of Business (COB)

Loveland began by informing the Council that there have been some correspondences regarding the proposal submitted by Dean Kleinsorge to Provost Randhawa about the MBA degree program transitioning out of the Graduate School (GS). Marty Fisk prepared a response highlighting the Graduate School’s current role in monitoring the MBA program.

Dean Kleinsorge proceeded by thanking the Council for giving the College of Business the opportunity to present its proposal. The MBA program is a small program. It graduates sixty students a year, with an average of ninety students in the whole program. There is a need and desire to grow the graduate student population to 20% of the total student population. The MBA has a global graduate distinction. INTO at OSU requested 50 slots in the MBA next year expecting to transition to 40 students. The COB saw the opportunity to grow and started thinking about how to ramp up the program to include the INTO students, as well as recruiting domestic students. In the early 1990’s, 62% of the student population was international students. The faculty decided not to have more than 50% international. Currently, the international students form 20% of the total population. They are looking at this transition as part of the strategy to grow a robust MBA program, up to 250 students a year. They would like to eliminate redundancy. The request, as in the case of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy, is to take control of the processes from admissions to graduation, while maintaining and retaining the Graduate Council policies. The COB is asking for the Council’s advice on how to transition the MBA program from the GS to the COB. She also indicated that Associate Dean Jim Coakley will be in charge of this transition.

Loveland reported that Provost Randhawa is funding this transition as a pilot program. Kleinsorge noted that the extra funds will be used for domestic recruitment. Jim Coakley indicated that the goal is to double or triple the student population and make the process more efficient.

Loveland wondered how to set up a matrix to evaluate the success of the program. Kleinsorge responded that a baseline will be established this May with the MBA Graduate Program Review. The new processes will be reviewed in two years. Tom Wolpert asked about the MBA accreditation process. Kleinsorge responded that accreditation reviews occur every five years. Those include a spot check of what is working and what is not working, an assurance of learning that is very vigorous, learning objectives of the program, external reviewers to judge the students, and several requirements for the faculty. The American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of
Business (AACSB) is the accreditation association which has been in existence for a long time.

Coakley reiterated that the COB monitors its MBA students, which becomes redundant with what the Graduate School performs. The faculty will continue being involved in streamlining the processes.

When asked if the course numbers will be changed from 5xx to 7xx, Kleinsorge responded that they had no intention of making this change. She also indicated that they already control the tuition, are not planning on moving from the Graduate Council as it is responsible for setting up policies for graduate programs, and the strategy is to partner with other programs, e.g. MEng. Coakley pointed out that the MBA is a non-thesis program.

Loveland pointed out that the list prepared by Fisk indicates that professional schools processes are not monitored by the Graduate School. As far as the MBA admission process, Kleinsorge noted that the COB approves the applications for admission, and then send them to the Graduate School for review. Not one application has been denied by the GS. They also do the graduation audits. Their goal is to streamline and get to the potential students in a timely manner, and respond quickly to qualified domestic students. She also indicated that she has had a conversation with Fisk regarding the difficulty in reviewing international transcripts.

Loveland proceeded by saying that other groups on campus might be interested in going this independent route. Fisk stated that there would be no problem for the COB to do their own admission, but this would not apply to other departments or colleges without an accrediting body. These are two different issues. Rick Colwell wondered if the COB was intending to articulate this plan at the upcoming MBA Program Review. Kleinsorge responded that, so far, this is just a proposal and the COB is seeking feedback. It is an opportunity for advice on the transition from the GS and on growing the MBA program. Fisk informed the Council that Dean Sally Francis’ opinion is if this proposal is approved, that all the processes for the MBA should be moved out of the GS. He then pointed out that the students will not have a central point to go to and it would create some confusion. Jo Tynon wondered how many students were lost due to the current procedure done through the GS. She pointed out that the longer turnaround in the admissions process is not a good reason for moving forward with this proposal. When asked about the turnaround time for reviewing MBA applications, Rosemary Garagnani indicated that as of that day, there were 26 fall term admits, with a median turnaround of 4.5 days and an average turnaround of 6.8 days. Those admitted include both domestic and international MBA applicants.

Kleinsorge would like the opportunity to meet with the Graduate School to find the most effective way to deal with the transition, and identify best practices. More discussions followed. Once the Graduate School and the COB meet, the Council will revisit the proposal.
Adjourned 4:35 pm