

9-16-2013

## Graduate Curricula and Assessment Committee Meeting : 2013 : 09 : 16

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**GRADUATE CURRICULA AND ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE**  
**GCAC**  
**Meeting of September 16, 2013**

Present: James Fellows, Chair  
Gary Patterson  
Karin Braunsberger  
Maria Corton  
Alison Watkins, Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, *ex officio*  
Eric Douthirt, Assistant Director of MBA program

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 2:00pm. The first order of business was a discussion of a proposal by John Jewell, Director of the Program of Accountancy. [See the attachment following these minutes]. The GCAC discussed a motion to approve the proposal to eliminate BUL 5332, Law and the Accountant, for MBA credit. The motion was unanimously approved by the GCAC by a vote of 4-0.

The GCAC next discussed the proposal from the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies for obtaining course numbers for the eight MBA Essentials classes. Currently these courses are not shown on the transcripts of students. Obtaining course numbers will enable new MBA students to be part of the system immediately. The courses will be for -0- credit and will remain the same in content as well as being S/U for grading. The chair stated that the course information has already been inputted into the online USF Graduate Course Approval system, so GCAC approval is the next step in a glacial process to have course numbers assigned to each Essentials course. After a fruitful discussion of the current and future content of the Essentials courses the GCAC voted 4-0 to approve a motion to have course numbers assigned to these courses. Because this proposal is technically a request to approve new courses, the next step in the process is to forward the proposal to the CBC for their consideration.

The last item for discussion was put on the proverbial table by the Associate Dean, Alison Watkins, speaking *ex cathedra*, and Eric Douthirt, the Assistant Director of the MBA program. They asked the GCAC to consider whether the GMAT should still be required of all prospective students, as it is not a predictable indicator of student success in the program. There ensued an informative and amicable discussion of the topic, with the idea put forward that students with significant professional experience could perhaps have the GMAT waived.

The committee eventually decided that the GMAT should be retained for all students, but the Associate Dean should continue, and even increase, her discretion to allow students with professional or managerial backgrounds into the program despite not having GMAT scores of 500 or above. Along these lines it was agreed that the Associate Dean will start a pilot program to admit students with low GMAT scores who have extensive managerial experience and, after being interviewed, are deemed desirable candidates for the MBA program.

The meeting was adjourned in good spirits and camaraderie at 3:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

James Fellows (in his capacity as Amanuensis of the Committee)



MBA PROGRAM MEMORANDUM

TO: James A. Fellows, PhD, Chair, Graduate Curriculum and Assessments Committee  
("GCAC"), College of Business, USF St. Petersburg

FROM: John F. Jewell, Director, Program of Accountancy

RE: Proposal to eliminate MBA credit for BUL 5532 (Law & the Accountant):

DATE: June 25, 2013

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For the Fall 2013 Semester, please consider this memorandum with your committee.

**Background:**

MBA "core" class BUL 6652 (Regulation & Reporting) is now approved as a business law course for meeting the CPA Education requirements for the State of Florida. It had been approved on an ad hoc basis until a Committee meeting of the Board of Accountancy during March 2013. Now the course is approved for all CPA applicants. This approval took a slight catalog change to include contracts, torts and UCC topics to be discussed in the course. As a result, BUL 6652 and BUL 5332 have substantial overlap, particularly in the following areas:

1. Contracts,
2. Ethics & Professional Responsibility,
3. Corporate and Enterprise Law/Corporate Governance,
4. Torts, particularly with respect to fraud and negligence,
5. Insurances.

**Issue:**

An MBA student is permitted to take up to six (6) hours of 5000 level courses for credit. Since the BUL 6652 course is required, a student could take the BUL 5332 for credit and not have the marginal benefit of additional curricular coverage afforded from non-business law courses (or courses in business law areas that were designed to cover unique topics compared to BUL 6652). Additionally, an outside observer might consider allowing both courses to count for the MBA requirements as lacking in rigor.

I bring this proposal to the GCAC's attention as I have been the sole instructor of BUL 6652 and have been the primary instructor for BUL 5332 for more than a decade and am familiar with the coverage of both courses.

**Recommendation:**

I strongly urge GCAC to eliminate allowing BUL 5332 from counting as MBA credit for graduation. Students would be permitted to take the course, as it is a good review for the CPA exam, but only in addition to the thirty six (36) hour requirement for MBA.

