Hi Barbara,
Admittedly, my thinking may not be entirely clear, but I'm scratching my head about a few things on this one.

My understanding of the concerns is that they have not been raised about the quality of the proposed program. Additionally, the evidence about comparable programs and expected competencies in such programs is compelling.

The questions below focus on resources which, in my limited experience with Senate deliberations, are not generally the main concern of the Senate when evaluating academic programs. If, in fact, the justifications for the proposed curriculum are clear, then the resource issues seem to have arisen not with the concern of students and the quality of their educational experience at the foreground, but out of a perceived threat the revised curriculum might pose to enrollment in other programs.

The Busad changes make the concentrations more, rather than less, difficult for students to achieve. Less motivated students may switch to programs that require fewer courses; one could argue that the number of Busad students might even decline, leading to fewer - rather than more - sections.

If the number of students stays the same, both you and Frances have demonstrated that the effect across the College is likely to be dispersed in such a way such that there wouldn't be a substantial impact on any particular program. Our course offerings are not static, and we have a balance among courses students must take (Seminar, Jan Term, Core), courses in the major, electives, and College resources such as existing faculty. Departments don't have guaranteed "allotments," just as they don't have static faculty lines or numbers of lecturers. The issue
of a program's changes having an impact on other programs seems most relevant if a program wants to assign courses *outside* their own as requirements in their program. Then, one program can put an unwieldy burden on another. The argument that changes to Busad will negatively affect other programs because this new, more rigorous and demanding program has "stolen" students puts the interests of a few faculty above those of the students.

Finally, I don't see a direct, negative impact on resources to programs outside of SEBA because of these changes. The Senate recently approved a new technical theater concentration, which led to hiring an additional instructor. Changes in the science curriculum have required additional staff and instructional materials support. We make adjustments all the time based on instructional needs that do not correlate directly with reductions in other places - as we should.

So I'm left scratching my head. It doesn't seem as though we've been asking the right questions. If the changes are necessary to bring the curriculum in line with our peers, with national professional standards, with student and employer expectations, and to be consistent with the quality of our other academic programs, then we should do them. Those questions appear to have been answered. What remains are details about resource allocation customarily left to administrators, and thankfully, those resource demands appear, at least to me, to be fairly minimal.

Thank you for your careful work on this proposal.

Regards,
-b.

On Sun, 08 May 2011 16:59:22 -0700
Barbara McGraw <bmcgraw9@mac.com> wrote:
Beth:
First, we are sorry to bother you while you are in recovery and hope that all is going very well. Second, as you know our Busad Task Force is taking our revised program proposal through the faculty approval process. The UPEC has raised two questions: 1. How many sections will the business department need for its new programs ("added new course sections minus
course section elimination and consolidation due to phase-out of old program)? 2. Will the increase in Busad sections impact other programs' section allotments negatively? We have completed our analysis and have concluded that we would need 6-8 sections over the current allotment, assuming college-wide enrollments and other College variables remain constant.

Frances already sent a memo explaining to the UEPC that "[t]here is no zero sum balance of courses per program, nor per term or year. Factors that impact allocation include average class size, new student projections, transfer student projections, total enrollment, study abroad projections, and program changes such as the Business Administration proposal itself." Nevertheless, some UEPC members have indicated that they remain concerned that any increase in Busad sections on account of Busad's new programs would result in a reduction of sections in other departments' programs. We need to address the UPEC's concern with the most complete information we can gather.

Consequently, we are contacting you for your input and view on this issue. I've cc'd Asbjorn, UEPC Chair, on this email so you can easily "reply-all" with your response. Thanks for your time.

All the Best,

Barbara

Cc: Asbjorn Moseidjord; Frances Sweeney
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"Pluralism is not relativism, but the engagement of commitments." -- Diana L. Eck
"Pluralism is building a society where people from different backgrounds can live in equal dignity and mutual loyalty." -- Eboo Patel
"Pluralism is the aspiration that arises from the values of liberty, equal dignity, conscience, and participation embodied in the founding documents of the United States." -- Barbara A. McGraw

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