

GPSA Coordinating Committee  
Meeting Summary  
27 February 2009

Present were Travis Cox, Mike Duffy, Mark Gleason, Matt Liebman, and Charles Sauer.

Agenda items

- 1) GPSA Spring Symposium
- 2) Admissions update
- 3) Student professional development grants (PDGs)
- 4) Proposal for double degree program – MBA-SUSAG MS
- 5) MS requirement for PhD admission

Mike Duffy called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM.

1) Mike Duffy provided an update on the spring symposium. To-date, little progress has been made with external speakers. It was proposed to consider Dennis Keeney or an internal speaker, perhaps Fred Kirschenmann. Mike will continue to pursue leads.

Matt Liebman added a progress report on the Pesek Colloquium and SUSAG 620X. Planning is proceeding successfully.

2) Charles provided an overview of the F09 applicant pool.

3) A brief discussion centered on the administration of student PDGs. In the past, a written policy has not been established. It was proposed to put in writing the general guidelines that the program uses for awarding grants, namely

- priority is given to conference attendance where the student is presenting research
- conference attendance and participation in short courses may be considered
- thesis/dissertation research is not a suitable use for grants

The committee agreed that these guidelines should be committed to writing in the program handbook. Charles will follow up.

4) A proposal has been forwarded from the College of Business to establish a double degree program: an MBA and an MS in sustainable ag. (See attached.) The committee briefly discussed the content. The proposal indicates that the program would occupy two years but those assembled were inclined to believe that three years would be more likely. It was also observed that the MBA curriculum was preserved intact as for the stand-alone degree, whereas the model for double degree programs normally involves some curricular credit concessions on the part of both majors. Lacking a quorum at the present meeting, no specific action was

resolved to be taken. Mike will pursue additional discussion with COB representatives to clarify the timetable and credit counts on the MBA side.

5) Mark Gleason brought to the floor for discussion the GPSA policy of requiring PhD applicants to first complete a Master's degree. Mark expressed the view that this rule may exclude qualified applicants who are motivated to enter at the doctoral level. In addition, there are concrete financial incentives at ISU that favor the admission of certain applicants at the PhD level. Matt Liebman provided an historical perspective on the policy and observed that any change in policy should be carefully considered and not driven by financial factors. Lacking a quorum, no specific resolution emerged from the discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.



that accurately convey costs and benefits of production systems. And all these roles ought to be filled by conscientious professionals operating with a triple bottom line in mind.

The double degree will create a tangible partnership between the College of Business and Sustainable Agriculture, and could act as a lightning rod for increased awareness and funding opportunities from sustainability organizations and like-minded businesses. In addition, the program will be producing highly sought-after graduates who are fluent in the Midwest's two most important professional languages: agriculture and business.

#### Requirements of the MBA/MS-SusAg Double Degree Program

The MBA and MS in Sustainable Agriculture is a rigorous two year, 64-65 credit hour double degree program. The curriculum is comprised of core courses in business administration (30-31 credits) and sustainable agriculture (10 credits). In addition, students must take a professional skills development course in each of the first two semesters. Students will choose a thematic area in sustainable agriculture (6 credits), a SusAg free elective (3 credits) and 9 credits of MBA electives. Students select either the thesis or non-thesis (creative component) option (6 credits) integrating their research in business and sustainable agriculture. One oral exam will cover the combined thesis or creative component.

A sample study plan is illustrated below.

Term	Courses
Summer	SUSAG 509 (3 cr) (Offered first two weeks of August)
Fall	Accounting (3 cr) Managerial Economics (3 cr) Organizational Behavior (3 cr) Business Quantitative Methods (3 cr) or STAT 401 Statistical Methods for Research (4 cr) MBA Professional Skills I (R cr) SUSAG 600 (1 cr)
Spring	Finance (3 cr) Technology and Innovation Mgmt (3 cr) Marketing (3 cr) Supply Chain Management (3 cr) MBA Professional Skills II (R cr) SUSAG 600 (1 cr)
Summer	MBA electives (6 cr)
Fall	Ethics and Governance (3 cr) Strategy (3 crs) SUSAG 610 (3 cr) SUSAG 600 (1 cr) SUSAG thematic course (3 cr)
Spring	SUSAG thematic course (3 cr) SUSAG 600 (1 cr) SUSAG 599/699 (3 cr) MBA elective (3 cr) SUSAG elective (3 cr)
Summer	SUSAG 599/699 (3 cr)

## **Admission Requirements & Procedures**

The following application materials are required and will be reviewed separately by the respective admissions committees for the MBA and MS-SusAg programs:

- Graduate College Application
- Official transcripts of degrees earned from all postsecondary institutions
- Three letters of recommendation
- TOEFL or IELTS (international students)
- GRE General Test
- Essays including narrative addressing motivations for participating in the MBA/MS-SusAg
- Resume
- SusAg faculty adviser identified

## **Expected Enrollment**

An estimated three new students per academic year.

## **Effective Start Date**

Fall 2010

## **Proposal Contacts**

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**Attachment: Memos of Support**