BBA Learning Assurance Committee
Minutes of December 20, 2007

The minutes of the November 20, 2007 meeting of the BBA Learning Assurance Committee were approved.

The December 20, 2007 meeting began at 12:00PM. In attendance were Bob Blau, Al Booke, Mike Carew, John Choonoo, John Elliott, Mehmet Genc, Mikhail Gershovich, David Rosenberg, Dennis Slavin, Vanessa Vacchiano, Ashok Vora, Judith Tse, and Phyllis Zadra.

Phyllis informed the committee about some of the curricular innovations that took place during fall 2007 as a direct result of the 2007 Summer Seminar. She mentioned the group presentations used in the Accounting 2101 large lecture classes. Recitation sections were used to create teams of five students each. The teams were given a specific assignment to report to a company executive about the viability of another company. Scoring rubrics were provided to students and recitation instructors. The instructors provided a video model available through Blackboard. The BCTC videotaped all of the presentations so that faculty could review student performance, and students could watch themselves. The Schwartz Communication Institute provided support in working with the recitation instructors and assisting with the rubric.

In Accounting 3000, Prof. Byard created a written assignment for students to compare the international accounting practices with American practices. The assignment was formulated as a real life situation where an employee was reporting back to his supervisor about an Australian firm. The assignment was used in all Accounting 3000 sections. The grading distribution for the assignment was provided by Prof. Byard.

In Accounting 4100 several of the faculty piloted a CIC version of the course. They worked closely with the Schwartz Communication Institute and were provided consultants to help them with their oral assignments.

There are many other examples of interactive and communication assignments that were instituted in the fall. Increasingly faculty are interested in restructuring their courses and assignments. Dean Elliott and Dean Zadra, with the support of the Schwartz Institute and the Writing Center, are working to enable faculty to make these changes. Unquestionably, the attitudinal changes of faculty are a direct result of the work and recommendations of the BBA Learning Assurance Committee.

Based upon the results of the Civic Awareness/Ethical Decision-making pilot assessment, several changes were made to the original assignment. The final assignment will be one scenario. The Committee recommended that it be given in all capstone major courses in spring 2008. The final updated scenario and the directions will be sent to the Committee for final comments before it is sent to the faculty.
The technological skills assessment designed by Prof. Ajay Das was distributed to the Committee. Al Booke indicated that the Mgt 3121 faculty seemed interested in using this assignment. All or almost all instructors in Mgt 3121 teach forecasting and smoothing and this assignment works well with their syllabus. Directions and other details will be worked out with the Mgt 3121 faculty with the expectation that the assessment will be run in the spring 2008 semester.

Matt Johnson was unable to attend today’s meeting but he did provide a report on the sample papers he received from Eco 4000 sections. In summary, 6 out of 35 did the assignment perfectly. All others had some difficulty with “calculating a stock’s beta”. Those results should be provided to faculty teaching Sta 2000 and other relevant courses. We will move forward with the forecasting assignment to assess technological skills for the spring 2008 semester.

Since several members of the Committee were unable to attend today’s meeting, discussion of the next learning goal will be postponed until the first meeting of the spring.

No date for the next meeting was set. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45PM.