

University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
Department of Economics
MINUTES
Department Meeting of 10 September 2012

Present: Heinrich (Chair), Ahmad, Ersal, Tao, Milli, Araj, Bashaw, Welsch, Marks, Glosser, Kashian, Schweigert, Das, Winden, Gregory, Teferra.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 3:40p.m. (All dates are 2012 unless stated otherwise)

1.) Minutes: Approval of Meeting Minutes from May

Motion to approve meeting minutes from May 7, 2012 by Ahmad, second by Welsch. Motion Passes; yes – 14, no – 0, abstain – 0. Meeting minutes approved for May 7, 2012.

2.) Announcements:

- Introduction of new faculty and staff: Winden, Milli, Araj, Das.
- New face-to-face review requirements for all faculty and staff were discussed.
- All probationary faculty must have peer-faculty reviews in the classroom. The following senior faculty will be responsible for review of the associated junior faculty member: Kashian for Tao, Welsch for Winden & Das, Ahmad for Ersal.
- Welsch applying for sabbatical for one semester.
- Heinrich in final year of 2nd term as Department Chair.

3.) MBA Curriculum Update:

- Changes to Econ 703 discussed: Go down from 3 to 2 credits to streamline MBA program.
- Changes to course content also discussed: The course now only goes through comparing means and hypothesis testing, no linear regression analysis. The new goal for the course is to give a good conceptual foundation in statistics.

Motion to approve revised Econ 703 syllabus by Welsch, second by Ahmad. Motion Passes; yes – 15, no – 0, abstain – 0.

- Noted: Assessment plan for 736 and 737 must be submitted to grad studies committee this year for the 2013-2014 academic year.

4.) M.S. in Economics Update:

- Official Approval of M.S. has been granted from the administration.
- Special thanks and congratulations to Ahmad from Kashian for his hard work on this project.
- Discussion of timeline for implementation of M.S. by 2014.
- One year (+summer) timeframe for completion of the M.S. - 30 credits total discussed.
- Possible course title change and prerequisites discussed: Econ 413 from Advanced Economic Analysis to Mathematical Economics (or equivalent) and dual list for M.S to give students necessary math econ background for their M.S. studies.
- Questions of importance moving forward: Who do we want to serve? International/Foreign Students and/or domestic students? What are the goals/outcomes of the program for faculty and participating students? Shape towards econometric/data analysis skills?
- Motion to approve Program Sequence for M.S. in Economics by Ahmad, second by Bashaw. Motion Passes; yes – 15, no – 0, abstain – 1.

5.) Assessment/Assurance of Learning (AoL)/ Capstone Course Update:

- Audit Committee looking for “Review of Student Work”.
- Capstone Course still being developed and worked on as a potential solution for these requirements. Cannot be implemented this year, but further work and discussion will continue.

- One possibility: Use Econ 345 students.
- Second Possibility: Need to examine quantitative literacy. Policy quizzes as an assessment for core knowledge retained at end of program.
- Need to revise the Econ 202 and 245 assessments for AACSB. Revision needs to be completed this month.
- Heinrich highlights need for department-level assessment/AoL committee.

Move to form department level AoL committee by Winden, second by Kashian. Motion passes; yes – 16, no – 0, abstain - 0. Further discussion on assessments methods followed, but did not get to the point of formation of an official committee body. Move to table further discussion to October meeting by Kashian, second by Winden. Motion passes; 16 – yes, no – 0, abstain – 0.

6.) New Faculty Searches:

- Search for new faculty on the justification of proposed M.S. program. First position plan is to seek a Macroeconomist. Second position plan is to seek an Applied Econometrician. Ads must get out in next five days for JOE.
- The following volunteered to serve on recruiting committee(s). Ahmad, Ersal, Glosser, Schweigert (Macroeconomist Search) and Heinrich, Welsch, Kashian, Marks (Applied Econometrics).

7.) To-Do List for the Year.

- By May must have something to give to the audit and review committee (see Agenda Item Number 5). Econ 202, 245 questions need to be reviewed and revised this month. Align questions to AACSB stated goals/outcomes.
- Teferra and Bashaw reviews in November with Heinrich.
- Purple Book review for Ersal and Tao. Marks to advise.
- Departmental Seminar funding approved, submit ideas for speakers.
- African-American Heritage Speaker Series co-list with Economics?
- Brown Bag, September 19th, Canned Corn Presentation, Kashian.
- Economics of Discrimination course, Kashian to prepare and submit proper paperwork to Heinrich.
- Heinrich suggests revised long-term course offering schedule for the department to be completed.

Motion to adjourn meeting Ahmad, second by Winden. Motion Passes; yes – 16, no – 0, abstain – 0. Meeting closed at 5:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Winden
Secretary *pro tem*