

Date: October 6, 2009  
From: Division of Business & Economics  
To: Faculty Senate  
Subject: Master of Science in Management and Information Systems

### **Proposal**

Convert the existing 3 credit 600-level business courses to 4 credits. One of two management courses, BA 604 (Business, Government, and Society) will be dropped, with business ethics and corporate social responsibility shifted to BA 601 (Organizational Leadership). BA 635 (Professional Project) will change from 6 credits to 1–8 credits.

### **Motivation**

The curriculum includes one course each in marketing, management, finance, and quantitative methods. The decision to add an extra classroom hour per week was based on the diverse backgrounds of the students in the program (some from business and others from computer science) and the breadth of each subject. The impact of this diversity on our ability to cover material at a graduate level was not fully recognized when the curriculum was designed, but became readily apparent during the first term of the program. MIS courses in Computer Science, while originally approved for 4 credits, were offered on a temporary basis for 3 credits during Fall 2008, with a plan to convert them permanently. Given similar classroom experiences to ours, they withdrew that plan.

### **Summary**

Old Program (in place for Fall 2008 only, with CS courses offered at 3 credits)

BA 600-level courses	18 credits (6 @ 3 credits)
BA Professional Project	6 credits
Total	24 credits

CS 600-level courses	20 credits (5 @ 4 credits)
CS Practicum	4 credits
Total	24 credits

New Program (BA courses operating under temporary approval since Winter 2009)

BA 600-level courses	20 credits* (5 @ 4 credits)
BA Professional Project	4 credits**
Total	24 credits

CS 600-level courses	20 credits* (5 @ 4 credits)
CS Practicum	4 credits**
Total	24 credits

\* Depending on a student's baccalaureate background and professional work environment proficiency, some variation of BA vs. CS credits may be permitted with advisor approval, with a minimum of 16 credits in each area.

\*\* With the consent of their advisors, students may elect to complete professional projects in both Business and Computer Science (usually for 4 credits each), a single project in one of the disciplines (for 8 credits), or some other combination totaling 8 credits.