



**Date:** December 1, 2009

**To:** Professor Kathy Menzie, Chair  
Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

**From:** David L. Sollars, Dean *DL S*  
School of Business

**Subject:** Establishment for an Alternative Required Course in the Finance Major: Specifically the Establishment of BU 484 Applied Portfolio Management as an Alternative to BU 374 Principles of Risk and Insurance to Meet the Requirements of the Major Area of Concentration in Finance in the BBA Degree.

**Rationale or Reason:** The proposed change will provide alternatives within the finance area for students with differing interests, allowing them to choose between the two courses to fill out the 12-hour module. Both courses are established courses.

The proposed change is triggered at this time by the recent retirement of Professor Jim Eck, the long-time instructor in BU 374, and facilitated by the hiring several years ago of Professor Rob Weigand, the Brenneman Distinguished Professor, who developed BU 484 at Washburn as an elective course.

It was felt that the exclusion of BU 484 from the finance major artificially directed enrollment away from BU 484 while inclusion of BU 374 in the major similarly artificially directed enrollments toward BU 374. Giving them equal status in the finance major will correct the distortion, while allowing the students to follow their own professional interests.

**Proposed Action:** The proposed action will alter the catalog and degree audit materials so that the 12-hour, four course requirement for the finance major will read as follows:

- BU 483 Investments
- BU 488 Financial Management
- EC 485 Money and Banking

and three (3) additional hours from the following:

- BU 374 Principles of Risk and Insurance
- BU 484 Applied Portfolio Management

**Financial Implications:**

There are no direct financial implications as both courses are currently offered by existing faculty and adjunct faculty. It is possible that in the long run there will be fewer sections of BU 374 offered over the year than in the past.

**Approvals:**

The proposal was approved at second reading by the School of Business Faculty in its meeting of November 24, 2009. By this transmission, it is approved by the Dean of the School of Business.

The proposal document as processed by the School of Business Faculty is attached.

**Curriculum Committee  
General Change Request  
Submission Form**

**Change request submitted by:** Rob Weigand

**Date:** September 22, 2009

**Proposed Change:**

Finance major currently requires  
BU 483 Investments and  
BU 485 Money and Banking and  
BU 488 Financial Management and  
BU ~~377~~ Risk and Insurance and  
12 additional upper-elective hours

Request it be changed to  
BU 483 Investments and  
BU 485 Money and Banking and  
BU 488 Financial Management and  
BU ~~377~~ Risk and Insurance or BU 484 Applied Portfolio Management, and  
12 additional upper-elective hours

**What is the current situation addressed by this change request?**

The Dean has requested increased enrollments in BU 484 (last spring the course drew 7).

**Why is the proposed change necessary?**

The Dean has indicated that future sections of BU 484 will be cancelled if enrollments are not substantially higher.

**How does the proposed change solve the problem(s) identified?**

The thinking is, if the course counts towards the major, it may attract additional enrollments.

**What new problems might arise as a result of the change?**

Enrollments in BU ~~377~~ could drop. Due to the fast pace and higher workload of BU 484, however, it's unlikely that large numbers of students will substitute BU 484 for BU ~~377~~.

**What objections might be raised to the proposed change?**

Now that Jim Eck has retired, we're not cannibalizing a tenured faculty member's enrollments.

**Have all relevant faculty members and administrators that you believe may be affected by the change been contacted and made aware of the proposed change?**

Rob Hull and Gary Baker are in favor of the change.

**Are there any decision deadlines of which the committee needs to be aware?**

We should have a faculty vote on this ASAP – with faculty approval, we can change the policy for Spring-2010 before it hits the 2010-2011 catalogue, and possibly boost Spring 2010 enrollments.

Approved by Faculty Senate 2/8/2010