The primary area of discussion of the SPS Business Faculty meeting centered around the capstone course and the cumulative assessment tool for the curriculum. The discussion started with a brief introduction of what has been done in the past for assessment of students. The Comprehensive Business Exam (CBE) was once utilized but had been discontinued due to expense. Upon that decision, a self-made cumulative assessment covering similar objectives to the CBE was implemented.

There was discussion about the content areas covered by the CBE and whether they are appropriate for both our BS-Business Administration (BS) and Bachelor of Applied Business (BAS) graduates, given that there are some core business course differences. The BS core includes BUS 480 - International Business and CMIS 300 - Information Systems Management, and the BAS includes BUS 380 - Human Resources Management and BUS 493 - Leadership of Teams and Organizations. Faculty members agreed to look at the CBE content areas and to determine if they are appropriate for all of our business programs and all areas of emphasis (e.g. marketing, management, accounting, computer management information systems) or whether there should be tailored content for each degree and area of emphasis.

Ideas for future assessment included a comprehensive exam covering the core courses in the business curriculum, offering business discipline-specific case studies that allowed for collective input from the interested faculty, or implementing a similar best practice-type exam that another institution has adopted.

Throughout the discussion of the various options, a consensus was made that a quick decision was not necessary. There was some support for an option where each faculty member would present material to the class in their area(s) of expertise and create the assessment for that area. Faculty members seemed interested in considering a cooperative approach to teaching the capstone course. It was agreed that we should use the same assessment tool for the Spring 2014 classes that was used for the Spring 2013 and will be used for the Fall 2013 classes. This will provide some continuity and three semesters of data for longevity comparison. For the Fall 2014 semester, faculty would like to fully consider the options and provide a more thorough analysis of each option with one another. It was suggested that each faculty member brainstorm his or her “ideal” scenario for the business capstone assessment, do some investigating of other practices, and be ready for more discussion upon completion of our next SPS meeting in October.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.