Summary:

The Accounting Department of the Ancell School of Business is requesting to add a concentration in Accounting to the existing MBA program. The concentration will require adding three accounting electives to the existing MBA curriculum.

Rationale:

WCSU graduates approximately 100 accounting majors each year, many of these students go onto pursue the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license. In addition to passing the CPA exam and meeting experience requirements, an individual must have 150 credit hours of education to become licensed in the State of Connecticut. Other states have similar requirements. Our accounting students use multiple paths to earn the 150 credit hours including double-majoring or continuing onto graduate school. Unfortunately, without a concentration in accounting, our MBA program is less attractive to these students than other programs.

New Courses:

ACC 5XX – Advanced Accounting Topics
ACC 5XX – Advanced Valuation Topics
ACC 5XX – Financial Statement Analysis
ACC 5XX – Advanced Topics in Tax

Pre-requisite – 18 credits in Accounting; CT license requires 36 credit hours in Accounting (Accounting minor electing a concentration in Accounting may have to take up to 6 additional credits)

Target Market:

- Existing students seeking employment with Big 4 Accounting firms (require 150 SH), 2nd tier firms are also moving in that direction
- Recent WCSU graduates seeking to meet 150 credit hour requirements
- Danbury area CPA candidates seeking to meet 150 credit hour requirements
- Possible option for students with Accounting minors seeking CPA license, may be augmented with up to 6 additional credits

**Cost/Benefit:**

Using existing approved resources, the Accounting Department should be able to support the additional courses in the MBA concentration. Currently, the Accounting Department teaches two courses per year in the MBA program with one of those courses a pre-requisite (ACC 504). Going forward, the pre-requisite course will be supported using standardized on-line module course.

The Accounting Department intends to offer three to four courses per year, depending upon demand. Incrementally, this is one to two courses. The incremental course offerings will most often be summer offerings, and thus, the incremental cost of the concentration is the summer stipends for up to 2 courses, or approximately $10,000.

**Resource Requirements:**

The Accounting Department currently has six full-time faculty members. The seventh full-time faculty member is interim dean and he is expected to return in the fall 2014. Additionally, the Accounting Department has one approved, but unfilled faculty line.

**MBA with a concentration in Accounting**

**MBA Core Courses (21 SH)**
- ACC 507 – Strategic Cost Management (current course)
- FIN 560 Analysis of Fin’l & Investments Decisions *(FIN 505)*
- MGT 506 Strategic Management
- MGT 521 Strategic Integration of Operations
- MIS 516 Information Analysis
- MKT 534 Strategic Marketing Management
- MKT 539 Effective Managerial Communication

**Accounting Concentration (9 SH above Core)**

Three of the following courses (new courses, two-three offerings per year):
- ACC 5XX – Advanced Accounting Topics
- ACC 5XX – Advanced Valuation Topics
- ACC 5XX – Financial Statement Analysis
- ACC 5XX – Advanced Topics in Tax*