31st & Pearl

AACSB Express

The recent news of Danny Arnold's curious move from Missouri State to Stephen F. Austin State reminds some of his role in the CoB's 2007 AACSB effort. That year Arnold visited the Hattiesburg and Gulf Coast campuses to assess the college's business education products. The news also has us thinking about the next effort former CoB dean Harold Doty will make regarding AACSB accreditation. That one will likely occur in Tyler, Texas, and for the University of Texas at Tyler, where he now serves as dean. Ponder this trio as the future UTT visitation team:

Farhang Niroomand – Business Dean at Houston-Victoria Danny Arnold – Business Dean at Stephen F. Austin State Stanley Lewis – Accounting Professor at Troy University

Of course, this is somewhat of an inside joke aimed at current and former CoBers, and long-time followers of USMNEWS.net. Though this may be intended as fun, don't think it can't (or won't) happen. With Doty and his sidekick in new UTT management chair Stephen Bushardt, anything is possible. These former CoB faculty have few qualms about playing games with the AACSB process . . . just ask AACSB guru Karen Tarnoff, who consulted with the Doty administration leading up to the failed 2007 accreditation effort. None of the failure was Tarnoff's fault – she did her job well, including warning Doty and former CoB chairman George Carter that plagiarizing AACSB documents is a ploy fraught with hazards. No warning would likely have stopped the Doty team, however, as they charged ahead with copied work product from Central Missouri State University . . . of all places . . . , and "without proper citation."

Yes, it will probably be quite fun to follow UTT's next AACSB attempt. Given what Doty and Bushardt are capable of, lots of laughs are likely in store. It's too bad that laughter outside of UTT would, in that case, also mean sadness on the inside. The UTT b-schoolers surely deserve better.

³¹st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.