

31st & Pearl

AACSB Probation

Call it what you will, but if what we hear about the AACSB team re-visiting the CoB in 2008 is accurate, and it appears so, then USM's CoB is currently on "AACSB probation." Sure, the CoB remains accredited, and that is the drum that Doty and Niroomand and Babin and Carter and Becker and Duhon and on and on will be beating incessantly over the next few days and weeks. They will argue that there is no probation here. But they will be wrong.

When USM was handed its SACS probation in recent years, it never lost SACS accreditation. Well, the situation that the CoB now finds itself in with AACSB mirrors that SACS one with USM, which is why we'll call it "AACSB probation." Make no mistake about it, probation is what it is. And, like in the SACS situation before, the heat will rise.

Of course, copying Central Missouri State's AQ/PQ work had nothing to do with getting the probation. At least that's what George Carter hopes everyone believes. That little "mistake" will have cost Mississippi taxpayers a pretty penny by the time this is all over with. As for Farhang Niroomand, his first shot at an AACSB renewal and he came up short. Actually attending the AACSB seminars in Paris, instead of visiting the Louvre, may have helped him, but we doubt it.

As with the SACS probation of the recent past, CoB students deserve to know about this AACSB probation, and they will. Word will spread. Some of them will have options. Others might not. CoB alumni should also know, and they will. They certainly have options.

What about CoB Dean Doty? Well, it remains to be seen what Thames will do next. It's hard to imagine that Pierce would get asked to step down and not Doty. Unlike Pierce, Doty actually messed stuff up. It's time Doty had to pick up the pieces himself, and move on.