

31st & Pearl

AACSB Re-Cycle

The recent "good news" from the AACSB regarding the CoB's re-accreditation means that the CoB is now on a new accreditation cycle. Since the CoB's prior accreditation success in 1997, the AACSB moved from 10-year review cycles to 5-year review cycles. Given the CoB's AACSB failure in February of 2007, the first year of the new 5-year cycle (2007-2012) has been spent on the most recent accreditation attempt. That's not good, especially for the yet-to-be-named new CoB Dean, who will take charge in just a few short months. When he or she arrives, assuming he or she isn't already employed by USM, there will be only 3.5 years left for "continuous improvement."

It wouldn't hurt the CoB to get a new Dean full of positive energy. EFIB chair George Carter and Assurance of Learning Coordinator Donna Davis are both a bit "long in the 'academic tooth'" to inspire confidence that the team that struggled to muster the CoB's most recent AACSB nod can do it all over again in 2012. Whatever happens, it will be a fun ride and usmnews.net reporters will be there to provide the details.

In the meantime, it might be fun to speculate on the make-up of the CoB's management team of 2012. It's difficult to imagine current Draughn Assistant Professor of Healthcare Marketing, Michael Wittmann, not being a part of it. The same goes for Jon Carr and John Clark. Both of the new economists, Sami Dakhli and Akbar Marvasti, will likely vie for something big in CoB administration. Want a wildcard? How about current assistant professor of IB, John Lambert? My guess is that Lambert is working on something big for the future, and with Carter as his mentor, that's bound to develop quickly over the next few months.

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