

# 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl

## Anticipating Arnold -- Word to Trapnell

Frostburg State University business school dean, Danny Arnold, will soon be visiting USM to interview for the same position ( business dean). Arnold is already a one-time loser when it comes to chasing down the top post at USM's business college, having failed in the late 1990s when his interview with the top brass at USM went awry. Those familiar with the CoB's latest AACSB accreditation troubles also recognize Arnold as a key figure on the CoB's Peer Review Team (PRT). In the fall of 2007 the CoB was notified that it had passed 6th Year ("Probationary") Review. Now, just about 120 days later, Arnold is heading this way to see about taking over the top post of the organization he just judged.

If AACSB top dog, Jerry Trapnell, thinks the CoB's recent re-accreditation was worrisome, just wait 'till he hears that Arnold, by interviewing for the CoB's dean post, is creating the looks of a *quid pro quo* that could rock the accrediting agency to its core. There is no doubt that there is a conflict of interest created by having Arnold head the school he just judged (as a member of the PRT). Even members of the United States Congress face stricter prohibitions when it comes to lobbying after their legislative terms expire. If the AACSB hasn't yet considered a covenant restricting its visiting deans from being hired by the institutions that they have recently ruled on, then it should. And, until such a rule is passed, Trapnell should have a conversation with Arnold, and perhaps even Arnold's superiors at Frostburg State.

The AACSB has clearly lost its cache over the years. A chip here, a chip there - that's how it has occurred, up until now. If Arnold is hired as the CoB's fifth permanent dean, then the next chip will be more like a chunk, and it's not certain that the AACSB or the CoB can survive a chunk-sized hit. Like so many of the CoB's old guard, Arnold appears to be someone who puts himself way above organizations like the CoB and the AACSB. At this point in time, neither of these institutions can afford such an individual.