

Accreditation: A Waste of Time and Money, and a Fraud Upon the Public

An article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, "[Pressure on Accreditation Is Cause for Concern, Speaker Warns](#)" by By Scott Carlson, is worth a read.

Ms. Eaton's organization, which represents 3,000 colleges and recognizes 60 accrediting organizations [including the AACSB] in the United States, has been trying to mount a defense of accreditation, but it's an uphill battle at a time when pundits and policy makers see accreditation as "broken."

My comments included:

Excuse me Ms. Eaton, we may see accreditation as "broken," because it is broken. And worse. It's a waste of time and money, and is a fraud upon the public.

I'm proposing studies of accreditors. I have studied them and you can review the research and documents. ("Ethics, Power, and Academic Corruption," among others, available at Amazon.)

We offered accreditors [AACSB] the opportunity to follow their standards and were, like researchers, prepared to report whatever the accreditors and our school administrators chose to do. They chose not to follow their standards and, here's the kicker, they choose to continue not to follow their standards. Nevertheless, I still offer them the opportunity to discuss and follow their standards and I'll gladly report what they do. Regardless of our efforts, they continue to refuse to even discuss their application of standards.

In our studies, we had to pry information from the AACSB through our school through open records act requests. (They are not subject to open records requests.) Not only do they not follow their standards, they are secretive. That is their choice.

Having standards and implementing them are two different propositions. Accreditors have written standards, but they are not implemented. Furthermore, ask if accreditors do more than review paperwork? Do they audit for reliability of implementation of standards? Challenge them sometime and see what happens. Identify a standard you know is not implemented, and challenge your school and accreditors that they have not done as the standard has proposed.

See, for example, "Ethics, Power, and Academic Corruption" available at

Amazon. But don't take my word for it. Test the idea that accreditation is reliable for yourself.

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