

## Accreditors Beckon

USM faculty are now posting on the *USM Forum – Message Board* that, based on discussions with USM administration, academic programs that fall victim to the current budgetary crisis *do not* have to be supported beyond the year in which the cuts are made. This means that stories about funding the programs until their current students graduate are inaccurate. As a result, the level of upheaval caused by the forthcoming cuts promises to be very high, and because of that the cuts, if they are inevitable, may need to be made sooner rather than later. Though this cuts against conventional wisdom, accrediting agencies are going to come around regardless of the situation facing the institution. In the CoB's case, the AACSB is coming in 2012, and CoB dean Lance Nail's job of convincing the AACSB Peer Review Team that the CoB offers a quality product would be difficult even under the best of financial circumstances. Imagine how difficult that job will be if the inevitable program cuts fall in 2010 or later, with little-to-no time available to develop plans/goals that deal with resulting administrative structure in the CoB. To make this story even scarier, imagine now that Nail leaves the CoB (for employment elsewhere) in 2010 or 2011. This situation is admittedly bad, and USM president Martha Saunders so far has an F average regarding her handling of it. It's time for her to do some extra credit work and pull her average up, hopefully at least up to a C. To continue at recess, where she has seemingly been for several weeks, would be derelict, if not worse.