

Another Trip Down Memory Lane?

A Look at Skip Hughes' Decision to Staff AIS

The recent USMNEWS.net report entitled "Skip to My Inbox" indicated that new CoB ACC director Kirby E. "Skip" Hughes pushed the CoB administration for an accounting information systems (AIS) course for the ACC core and that he was granted both support for the new course as well as an effort to hire an AIS professor. The search for the AIS professor during 2008-09 failed, as so many other CoB searches did. CoB dean Lance Nail, however, allowed Hughes to (1) make a visiting AIS hire for 2009-10 and (2) continue the search for a permanent AIS faculty during 2009-10.

As Hughes recently communicated to CoB ACC faculty, his choice for a visiting AIS faculty was Arthur Sorochinsky. Hughes' e-mail communiqué did not, however, expound on Sorochinsky except to admit that Sorochinsky's expertise was finance, not accounting. Thus, what little about Sorochinsky that CoB accountants were told was reminiscent of the way things were done in the past – i.e., that, once again, CoB administrators were putting the interests of students last, not first, by placing admittedly ill-suited faculty in the classroom. In this case, that was done for a course that could have been added to the ACC core at a later date, such as a day coming after the hiring of a qualified AIS faculty.

A recent Internet search provided to USMNEWS.net revealed that Sorochinsky is an instructor at the University of Alabama – Birmingham. As such, it appears as though Nail, who came to the CoB in 2008 from UAB, simply passed along Sorochinsky's name/c.v. to Hughes as soon as the search for a permanent AIS faculty hit the skids. The search also indicated that Sorochinsky is affiliated with Global Data Analytics, and that he holds a master's degree in finance. This bit of info indicates that Sorochinsky would be ill-fitted, particularly from an accreditation perspective, even as a visiting *finance* professor. Finally, the Internet search also revealed that Sorochinsky's *Rate My Professors* score is an underwhelming 2.6, and that the first comment about him (from 16-April-09) from a UAB student that one encounters is: "This guy is downright awful. He does not care about his students . . ."

Many CoB faculty and students expected such staffing decisions during the Harold Doty/Farhang Niroomand administration of the CoB (2003-07). For those who thought (hoped) such had ended with that regime, this report offers a proverbial splash of cold water.