

Breaking News

CoB's AACSB Report Due Today

HATTIESBURG – The arrival of 15-Oct-07 means that the CoB's AACSB Peer Review Team has the CoB's 2008 Maintenance of Accreditation Report in its hands. As long-time readers of USMNEWS.NET will recall, the CoB's original 5-Year Maintenance of Accreditation Report failed to pass the 2007 PRT's inspection, and the AACSB required the CoB to go through a so-called "6th Year Review" process. The report for that process had to be filed with AACSB by 15-Oct-07. The CoB's PRT visit will occur some time around February of 2008.

Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that between the time the CoB's AACSB PRT left in early February of 2007 and the beginning of summer semester 2007 almost nothing was done by the CoB's AACSB teams to address the concerns that were expressed in the AACSB report. Meanwhile, the CoB's Dean (Harold Doty) and Associate Dean (Farhang Niroomand) shocked the entire University community by submitting their resignations on 9-April-07. They were replaced by Interim Dean Alvin Williams (on 10-April-07) and Interim Associate Dean Joseph Peyrefitte (on 11-April-07). Not only that, 10 faculty left the CoB during that period of time, taking with them more than 100 refereed journal publications and hundreds of Google Scholar citations. So, between early Feb-07 and late May-07, the CoB's AACSB Accreditation prospects became demonstrably worse.

Later, over the summer of 2007, the CoB's Advisory Committee and Management Team both approved (1) a new set of P&T policies and (2) a new CoB Mission/Vision statement. Both of these were called for in the CoB's PRT report from the spring of 2007. Both were also drafted in secret. After only about 5 minutes worth of discussion, both of these *new* items were passed by a faculty vote during the Fall 2007 faculty meeting (on 31-Aug-07). Since that time, neither the CoB Management Team nor the CoB's accreditation committees have circulated any AACSB-related reports/documents throughout the CoB in order to receive feedback and/or approval.

Once again the CoB is attempting to gain re-accreditation by administration-generated reports. Whether or not this tried strategy becomes true remains to be seen.