

## Breaking News

### Strain of AACSB Accreditation Woes Showing

HATTIESBURG – Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that the strain of the CoB's AACSB Accreditation woes is showing. One example of the visible strain comes from the recent Fall 2007 CoB Faculty meeting (31-Aug-07), wherein Interim Dean Alvin Williams gave an AACSB update of sorts. At the beginning of the update, Williams informed business faculty that the CoB is "still accredited." According to Williams, this proclamation seemed necessary after overhearing CoB students, in both undergraduate and graduate classes, holding discussions about the CoB's current accreditation troubles. Williams urged CoB faculty to avoid telling students and other constituencies that the CoB is no longer accredited. Williams also added that, after indicating that a BAC member had called him (Williams) to seek information about the CoB's reported AACSB difficulties, there is "no need to put undue fear in [the CoB's] BAC [Business Advisory Council] members."

According to Williams, the CoB's current "circumstances" are "not easy," and the CoB faces "challenges" vis-à-vis Maintenance of Accreditation. He informed the CoB that "10-plus faculty" have departed the College since 1-Apr-07. Williams also noted that AACSB success will be "an uphill battle," and that it's the CoB's responsibility to "be honest and truthful." Surprisingly, Williams told CoB faculty that, if worse comes to worse, the CoB would be placed on "Continuing Review 1," and that if progress continued to lag the CoB would face "Continuing Review 2." Thus, in Williams' words, the CoB would not face the loss of AACSB Accreditation for the next 2 or 3 years (i.e., until 2009/2010). These comments are surprising given Williams' earlier statements (on 10-Apr-07) that the CoB was not on AACSB probation, 6th Year Review, or so-called Continuing Review. Thus, Williams' more recent statements (31-Aug-07) include the "Continuing Review" designation (for the CoB) for the first time, even though Williams continues to insist that "CR" does not apply to the CoB just yet. According to sources, there seems to be no other way (than "CR") to describe the CoB's current situation.