

Dear Skip . . .

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Do you remember the old joke about Texas that the citizens of Texas wanted to build a twenty foot wall all the way around the state so no one else could get into their great state? They did not do it because they found out everyone else thought it was a great idea. By analogy, that is the faculty you are inheriting. They are quite incestuous, and like it. They only want to talk, eat, and otherwise interact with each other. That is just fine with the non-accounting faculty. Both of these are problems for you. You have a few faculty members who are somewhat participative and functionally social beings; most are not. That is not something you can change much, but it is another reason to encourage retirements. The good news is within two or three years (market willing), you should be able to disencumber several of them and re-build the department with a good foundation.

We wish you the best of luck with your program for change.

An Optimistic Fan