

Are CoB Students Getting Their Money's Worth?

by Duane Cobb

The question in the title above struck me as an important one after putting some thought into the recent probationary report from the AACSB, the CoB's accrediting agency. A number of reports available here at usmnews.net have built a case for an answer of "no." Let me give you some examples. [The recent revelations about management professor Stephen Bushardt's reading assignments from the so-called "Timbers Nursery" cast much doubt on the quality of the CoB's graduate programs](#) (for more, see www.timbersnursery.com). It is also common knowledge around Joe Greene Hall that Bushardt's undergraduate courses predominantly involve individualized reading assignments from a list of popular books, supplemented by one-on-one discussions.

We've since been informed that David Duhon, the management professor who required the "letter of agreement" assistance to achieve promotion to full, spends his entire academic year playing an athletic shoe company simulation game. All semester long (spring 2007), economics professor William Gunther, who according to the AACSB, is not "academically qualified" to be on staff in the CoB, has been teaching a large section of economics principles right next to another large class that is being taught by associate professor of economics Trellis Green. The kicker here: both are using Power Point. [Two academic economists, one not academically qualified, both using](#)

[Power Point to teach ginormous sections.](#) That's what the CoB is coming to, and the students are paying the price for it, literally.

Want an even more troubling scenario? Take a marketing professor hired from Nicholls State, add an associate professor of management that needed a so-called "fourth year [tenure] review" to remain on staff, mix in an assistant professor of management currently on a 10-year tenure clock with another holding a "terminal letter" for sub-par performance, and what do you have? Answer: the main part of the CoB at USMGC. How's that for "money's worth?" All of the above doesn't even account for the other assistant professor of management who is nominally assigned as a Coast faculty, but who lives and works in Hattiesburg instead.

The recent revelation that the CoB's accounting program is seriously quality-challenged may be the biggest part of this story. [The SAIS is the epitome of "Schlockburg, MS 40907," and the inability to hire a new Director does not lend confidence that things can improve any time soon. The CoB is an institution that is out of control.](#) If you are a parent of a USM College of Business student, and I suspect there are plenty of you out there reading this column, then you should begin looking into what's going on with your tax and tuition dollars.