

Getting to Know Your CoB

A Primer for CoB Students

More and more CoB students are joining us here at usmnews.net every day. We think they should be here, after all no group has a bigger interest in the CoB than they do, and so we welcome them. CoB students, your future is now. There are so many facets to your CoB that you should know about. This issue (#2) continues our look at the “jungle rules” aspect of your CoB’s culture, as well as some of the CoB’s recent accreditation troubles. As always, we highlight some of your faculty in the process.

As many of you now know, the CoB’s accrediting agency, the AACSB, visited the CoB in early February of 2007 – just a few short weeks ago. They found a number of problems during that visit, many of which they alluded to during meetings and presentations that they attended while visiting USM. For example, they were astounded at the wide range of opinions held by our assistant professors in management, accounting, marketing, economics, and finance with regard to “what it takes” to achieve tenure and promotion (to associate professor) in the CoB. Wouldn’t you think a set of guidelines would be written down for these assistant professors to follow? You would. However, the people who manage the CoB, particularly Dean D. Harold Doty (see below) and



Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand apparently don’t want to specify “what it takes.” We think that is because to do so would mean that these two would lose the ability to make secret deals with certain professors they like, while not extending similarly sweet deals to those they do not like. In other words, to

produce a set of written guidelines would mean that Doty and Niroomand (see below) would have to give up their political power.



Farhang Niroomand

Well, the AACSB sent the CoB its findings, in written form, several days ago. The news was not good. They found enough problems in the College, one of which is described above, to warrant what is known in AACSB circles as “Continuing Review,” which means they want to come back next year and take a second look before making a final decision on the CoB’s accreditation. Not surprisingly, one of the things the reports mention is that the CoB needs a set of articulated guidelines for the tenure and promotion of assistant professors (see discussion above). What would you like to bet that never happens?



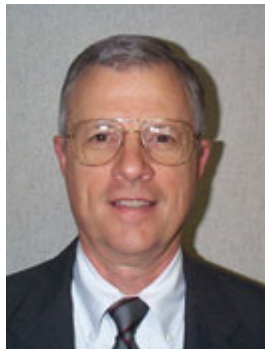
One indication of why the CoB may not adequately address the concerns of the AACSB Peer Review Team is Dean Doty's behavior since receiving the report. A few days after the report was produced, Doty e-mailed copies to all CoB faculty, with the instruction that the report was not to be circulated. That's a familiar Doty tactic, and one that he uses to "manage bad news." In other words, the Doty administration fancies itself as a group of "spin doctors" who can create the reality they hoped for, instead of the reality they are faced with.

"Spinning" is sometimes an exercise in futility. Through a Mississippi Open Records Act request, the AACSB Peer Review Team's reports were obtained by usmnews.net's editor, and they are available here. For a look at the report on the School of Accounting and Information Systems' separate accreditation status, which may be in greater jeopardy than the overall CoB accreditation, see the link on the main page of this website

<http://www.usmnews.net/News%20Report.pdf>.

How "Jungle Rules" Affected Accreditation Efforts

Issue #1 in this series introduced you to the notion of the CoB's "jungle rules" culture. That "jungle rules" culture pervades everything about the CoB these days, including our re-accreditation efforts. Here's a good example. One of the things that business schools are supposed to do in preparation for re-accreditation is define their own standards for the qualifications, academic and professional, of its business faculty, both participating (full-time faculty) and supporting (adjuncts, etc.). Well, those in charge of the CoB's re-accreditation efforts, such as George Carter (see below), David Duhon (see below) and Charles Jordan (see below), professors of economics, management, and accounting, respectively, apparently didn't have time to produce these items, even though the CoB has known for the past 10 years that the Visitation Team would be



George Carter



David Duhon



Charles Jordan

coming in February of 2007. We say “apparently didn’t have time” because it appears, as a result of the findings of investigative reporting by usmnews.net, that some CoB officials may have plagiarized similar AACSB documents from Central Missouri State University. Sound incredible? Check out the reports for yourself:

<http://www.usmnews.net/Plagiarism%20in%20CoB.pdf>
<http://www.usmnews.net/Special%20Report%20105.pdf>
<http://www.usmnews.net/Nervous%20CoBAdmin.pdf>

Perhaps the biggest of all of the plagiarism reports is the one entitled:

“Without Proper Citation”

A Report on the Doty Administration’s Actions in the Days after the AACSB Plagiarism Allegations

This report shows how the ill-advised actions of CoB personnel were part of a process that appears to involve a number of other universities, including:

- Central Missouri State University
- University of Southern Mississippi
- Western Illinois University

That report is very interesting, and can be found at on the usmnews.net site by accessing <http://www.usmnews.net/Without%20Proper%20Citation.pdf>. In fact, for a series of reports and editorials on administrative plagiarism in the CoB, as well as a series on the CoB’s recent accreditation woes, see:

<http://www.usmnews.net/plagiarism.html>
<http://www.usmnews.net/Accreditation.html>

We would urge you to spend some time perusing documents at these two locations.

Doty and Niroomand Distracted

An important part of the CoB’s failure to earn a clean bill of health from the AACSB Peer Review Team seems to be the cavalier way in which the CoB’s two highest ranking officials – Niroomand and Doty – approached the process. For example, in “Stretching the Truth to Stretch the Trip,” our investigators were able to show, using official USM documents obtained through the MORA, that

CoB Associate Dean Niroomand spent the first day of the last available AACSB preparation meeting, held in Paris during April of 2006, visiting the Louvre with associates (http://www.usmnews.net/Special_Report_66.pdf). For a sample of the kind of documentation supporting our reports, see:

OTHER EXPENSES			
Item	Date	Place Where Expenses Were Incurred	Amount
Telephone charges (phone card)	4/22-4/26	Paris, France	\$ 38.00
Dinner 4/22/06 - see BREF	22-Apr-06	Paris, France	\$ 33.65
Louvre - see BREF	23-Apr-06	Paris, France	\$ 21.44

MEALS AND LODGING							
Date	21-Apr-06	22-Apr-06	23-Apr-06	24-Apr-06	25-Apr-06	26-Apr-06	Amount
Breakfast		\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 125.00
Lunch	\$ 12.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 17.00	\$ 129.00
Dinner	\$ 28.66	\$ 83.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 83.00	\$ 14.00	\$ 374.66
Lodging		\$ 263.57	\$ 263.57	\$ 263.57	\$ 263.57		\$ 1,054.28
Total Meals & Lodging							\$ 1,682.94

Note: for additional days, see tab TV pg2

The second insert above shows that Niroomand’s meals and lodging in Paris accounted for about \$1,700 – all provided through your tuition and tax dollars. The insert below shows that the conference began on 4/23/06, however according to the first (of the two) insert above Niroomand was in the Louvre on 4/23/06.

The AACSB and EFMD International Conference and Annual Meetings
Network, share ideas, learn from the experts in Paris, April 23-25



Again, the exhibits above are just a sample of what is inside the “Stretching the Truth . . .” report that is linked above. You should take a look at it for sure.

As our “Throwing Money at AACSB” report indicates, Dean Doty traveled to Toronto in June of 2005 for an AACSB conference on teaching. That trip cost USM tuition-payers/MS taxpayers well over \$1,000, as shown below:

06/05 Doty attended AACSB Optimizing Teaching And Delivery Conference in Toronto \$1,327.36

Our editor obtained a copy of Doty's corporate AmEx card billing statement, and discovered that on 6/7/05 Doty was in the Toronto's Hooters buying merchandise (see bottom of insert below).

Activity	Merchant	City	Status	Date	Statement Code	Foreign Spending	Amount \$
5/07/05	CHAPTERS #921# 001000016 BOOK STORE	TORONTO	ON	06/06/05	0001000016	27.67 Canadian Dollars	22.71
6/07/05	FLIGHT TIME LIMOUSINE	TORONTO	ON	06/06/05	020083563	64.00 Canadian Dollars	52.52
6/08/05	HOLIDAY INN ON KING	TORONTO	ON	06/08/05	0095991749	435.70 Canadian Dollars	361.10
6/08/05	HOOTERS 060779301 MERCHANDISE/MARCHAND	TORONTO	ON	06/07/05	0200773001	19.00 Canadian Dollars	15.59

Foreign Commerce conversion rate is base rate plus 2%. See page 2 for details.

*MGJ -
Booker -
winning "b."
Jack Miller*

Submitted for part 6/10

Submitted for review 6/10

Submitted for part 6/10

(1.20) + 1.3

(351.76) + 9.2

(15.20) + 3.0



The report containing this receipt is entitled "Harold @ Hooters: 'Delightfully Tacky, Yet Unrefined'" – you should definitely check it out, and here's how:

<http://www.usmnews.net/Special Report 54.pdf>

Issue #1 in this series explains some of why AACSB accreditation is important to business school majors. Given those thoughts, it's hard to believe that the leaders of your business college are so flippant in their "public trust" responsibilities. Hard to believe or not, this is the case. Your education on this kind of behavior is only just beginning.

Until next time.