

Is There A Problem With The Lack Of Quality Of Research In The School Of Accounting And Information Systems And The College Of Business?

For many years, I told Dean Doty, Director Posey and many of my accounting colleagues that a portion of our time should be devoted to quality research that would be appropriate for a graduate degree program. Numbers of low level publications might serve a purpose, but AACSB would also expect some quality research from faculty in a graduate program that expects to sustain accreditation.

My concerns were totally ignored by Drs. Doty, Posey, and my accounting colleagues. They were so opposed to quality research that I was penalized for doing quality research. Faculty who published in low level journals, regional presentations, and vanity journals were rewarded. In fact, they so actively discouraged quality research that I stop. It was a lot of hard work, particularly when the rewards were greater for low level practitioner publications.

My accounting colleagues have never published quality research; I stopped doing quality research. That put all of us on a par. Now, there is a reckoning.

The AACSB peer review team who visited in February expressed the same concerns. In fact, I was told one of the team asked the question quite bluntly, "What happened to research in accounting? Until about four years ago there was some pretty good research coming out of the department." The answer is, "I was the only person in the department doing quality academic research and I quit because nobody wanted it."

Now, what are you, Dean Doty and current Director Lewis, going to do to turn around the weak research produced by our faculty? Do you honestly expect to have faculty who have never done quality research begin cranking it out in a year? Two years? Ever?

Let me suggest a practical path already taken by some faculty and you. Plagiarize. You may not get caught this time and have to ask for permission to copy work "without proper citation."

Here's how it works: The plagiarized research is put in a portfolio presented to a Peer Review Team only and not disseminated to a large audience. The odds of such a small audience catching the plagiarism, or caring about it, are next to zero. That fits quite well with your practice of "jungle rules," saves a ton of money that can be devoted to worldwide travels by Dr. Niroomand and you. (Let me suggest an AACSB trip to Tokyo.) Add to that the faculty who can't do quality research will love you for all the premier A publications that they will have without doing any work at all.

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