

Jaw-Dropper on the Horizon

What Some CoB Faculty Will Soon Learn About Their Research Credentials

Usmnews.net has just learned that EFIB Chair George Carter has told some faculty in the EFIB that the CoB's classification and consideration of academic research has undergone a complete overhaul since the CoB's AACSB Peer Review Team placed the College on Accreditation probation in March of 2007. As a result of the overhaul, the following changes to research classification and consideration will be implemented by the EFIB's Carter and the rest of the CoB:

1. "Forthcoming" research will no longer count toward Tenure & Promotion, annual evaluation, AACSB AQ status, or teaching load assignments. Only "in-print" research will count toward the above items.
2. Published research outside of a faculty's field will no longer count toward Tenure & Promotion, annual evaluation, AACSB AQ status, or teaching load assignments.

Since this report emanates from EFIB, usmnews.net reporters investigated the research records of untenured EFIB faculty. What was found was somewhat surprising in that John Clark, associate professor of finance and Director of the Center for Financial Services, may be the most negatively impacted EFIB faculty member by this change. Table 1 below lists journal outlets publishing Clark's research since his arrival at USM a few short years ago (data taken from *Business Source Complete*):

Table 1

John Clark's Journal Publications by Area

Finance Publications	Non-Finance Publications
<i>Quarterly Review of Economics & Finance</i> , 2004	<i>Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science</i> , 2005
<i>Financial Review</i> , 2003	<i>Journal of Advertising Research</i> , 2004
	<i>Journal of Business Ethics</i> , 2003

As Table 1 indicates, Clark was easily classified as AQ (Academically Qualified) at the time the CoB's AACSB Peer Review Team visited USM in February of 2007, and he was making good progress toward a successful tenure decision in two years.¹ However, with the recent changes implemented by Carter, John

¹ Given that the AACSB guidelines adopted by the CoB allow faculty to count presentations and other forms of "scholarly activity" toward AACSB research expectations, it is likely that Clark's AQ status will simply be "threatened" and not "endangered."

Clark's tenure application may be in jeopardy now. According to the data above, Clark has only two refereed journal publications in his field (finance). The remaining three journals above are classified as non-finance journals. As a result of the CoB's research re-classification, Clark may now find himself less than halfway toward the research requirements for tenure in the CoB, and with less than two years to recover from the setback.

Given the drastic nature of this change, this story will surely receive a significant amount of coverage in the coming weeks.