

No Group Does It Like Accounting

A Look Back at Accounting's Response to 6th Year Review for AACSB

As a result of access to documents obtained through the Mississippi Open Records Act, reporters at USMNEWS.NET are able to provide readers with a glimpse into the CoB's recent efforts to successfully navigate the AACSB's 6th Year Review process – a process hoist upon the CoB under the failed leadership of the CoB's previous management team of Harold Doty (former Dean) and Farhang Niroomand (former Associate Dean).



Harold Doty



Farhang Niroomand

As bad as the AACSB Peer Review Team's report on the overall CoB was (filed during the spring of 2007), its findings concerning the shortcomings in Accounting were arguably even worse. One of the main concerns that the AACSB PRT for Accounting had was the lack of intellectual activity among the CoB's accounting faculty. As a result of points made by the PRT in this area, the CoB's accountants dove head-first into the task of recording what it believed was the trove of intellectual activity they felt that the PRT had somehow overlooked or perhaps only glossed over.

What resulted from the accountants' efforts was a two-page table that was included in the CoB's 6th Year Review Responses Report that was submitted to the AACSB PRT in the fall of 2007. That two-page table, entitled **Summary of Planned Research, School of Accounting and Information Systems (Accounting Only)**, is inserted at the end of this report. The accountants' responses to the PRT's call for more intellectual activity are, in addition to the two-page table that was provided, inserted near the top of the next page. Part 1 of the response states that the "Accounting faculty have six articles accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals since the AACSB visiting team was

[in Hattiesburg] in February 2007,” and that “[t]wo of these have already been published.”¹

RESPONSE:

- 1) The Accounting faculty have six articles accepted for publication in peer reviewed journals since the AACSB visiting team was here in February 2007. Two of these acceptances have already been published. Six Accounting faculty were involved with these six articles, and the majority of the articles accepted are in discipline based research. In addition, two articles have been submitted and are currently under review at peer-reviewed journals. At least six more articles are presently in process with submissions expected in the very near term. Seven faculty are involved with these upcoming submissions to peer-reviewed journals. Since February 2007, all nine tenured or tenure-track Accounting faculty have either had an acceptance, a submission, or are nearing completion of a project for submission to a peer reviewed journal.
- 2) All faculty with doctorates are research-active and have submitted three-year forward research plans. These nine faculty members have 32 planned submissions to peer-reviewed journals and have plans to present 6 papers at academic meetings during the upcoming three years. All of these faculty members have at least some of their planned submissions targeted directly toward areas in which they teach. One faculty member has been relieved of all teaching and service responsibilities during a University hearing procedure. This faculty member contributed very little to the intellectual contributions profile of the Accounting faculty in the 5th year review and is not considered participating by the SAIS for its 6th year review.

In Part 2 of the accountants’ 6th Year Review response to AACSB’s concerns, they note that “[a]ll faculty with doctorates are research-active and have submitted three-year forward research plans.” According to those plans, the “nine faculty members have 32 planned submissions to peer-reviewed journals . . .” This is the information that is presented in table form at the end of this report, and it is this information that is analyzed more thoroughly in this report for USMNEWS.NET.

The information included in the table by the CoB’s accountants – information that produced the explanation about the 32 planned submissions – was canvassed, with particular attention paid to cross-referencing of the planned submissions by author(s).

¹ Given the speed with which this transformation occurred, especially the part about two of the six being both accepted and printed (published) in six months or so, what kind of quality could one expect to be represented across the board in the case of these new intellectual contributions?

The results of that canvassing process are quite astonishing, and they are summarized in **Table 1** below.

Table 1
No Group Does It Like Accounting Does It: Cross-Referencing Results of ACC's Planned Submissions

Article #	# Times Included
1	2
2	2
3	1
4	1
5	3
6	1
7	1
8	1
9	2
10	2
11	2
12	2
13	2
14	3
15	2
16	2
17	2
18	1
19	2
20	1
21	2
22	1

To start with, the final two table entries included by the accountants reference planned submissions from associate professor of accounting, Robert Smith. Smith fails to list any journal targets for either “planned submission.” Combined with Smith’s penchant for disappearing from the CoB (and Hattiesburg) for significant periods of time, and data that suggest he (Smith) will likely be stuck at the rank of associate in perpetuity, it is quite possible that these “working papers” exist only as abstract concepts, if at all. Therefore, and since they also violate the accountants’ own explanation in the 6th Year Review response, they are not included in this analysis.

This omission means that the two-page table contains *only 22* so-called planned submissions. Each of these is numbered, 1 through 22, in the order in which they are encountered when progressing through the entries in the two-page table. That 1–22 sequence makes up the first column in **Table 1** above. The remaining column in **Table 1** notes how many times the accountants included each of these 22. The counts

in the second column of **Table 1** range from 1 to 3. Only eight of the 22 (36.4%) articles are presented just once in the table. The remaining 14, or 63.6%, are included two or more (3) times each. Specifically, 12 of the remaining 14, or 54.5% of the total 22, enter the two-page table on two occasions each. The remaining two enter three times each. Each of the 22 articles enters the two-page table an average *1.73 times*, which is why the table is made up of 40 or so rows and required two pages for the CoB's accountants to present (to the AACSB PRT).

In the space below, USMNEWS.NET columnist Duane Cobb offers some commentary on this particular issue.

Commentary from USMNEWS.NET's Duane Cobb

Report after report here at USMNEWS.NET has shown how the CoB's accountants seem to have unique talent for making academic mole hills look like academic mountains. This report is no different. My question now is: how many of these so-called planned submissions are simply re-stated titles of various articles published years ago by (some of) the accountants. Looking at the two-page table that is inserted at the end of this report, I notice that associate professor of accounting, Marvin Albin, is involved. That's all I need to see to have internal alarms going off, prompting the question I posed just above.

Let's hope that an investigative report that addresses my question is forthcoming. I know I can't wait. How about you?

Summary of Planned Research
School of Accounting and Information Systems (Accounting Only)

- All research is relevant to the teaching area of all authors

Faculty Member	Tentative Paper Title	Target Journal
Marvin Albin (with Rod Posey)	An Analysis of Audit Opinions Received by County Governments of Selected States	Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives
Marvin Albin (with Steve Jackson)	Professional Ethics: Perceptions of Auditing Students	Journal of Accounting and Finance Research
Mary Anderson	An Empirical Investigation to Determine the Presence of Cognitive Bias in The Defenses Presented by Litigants Practicing before the Tax Court	Journal of the American Taxation Association
Mary Anderson	Conservation Easements: Analysis of GLASS and TURNER	CPA Journal
Mary Anderson (with Gwen Pate and Charles Jordan)	Financial Statement Effects of Adopting FAS 123 (R)	Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives
Mary Anderson	T.S. Vines: Good News for Securities Dealers	Strategic Finance
Mary Anderson	Intangible Assets: A Litigation Perspective	Journal of Legal Tax Research
Mary Anderson	Cognitive Bias and the Tax Research Task: A Case Study	Annual Conference of the Accounting, Behavior, and Organizations section of AAA
Mary Anderson (with Stan Clark)	Maximizing the Tax Benefits of Education Expenses	CPA Journal or Practical Tax Strategies
John Brown (with Steve Jackson)	Zia Motors: A Case Study	Issues in Accounting Education
Stan Clark (with Charles Jordan)	SFAS No. 158 Spells Double Trouble for the Balance Sheet	Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly
Stan Clark (with Charles Jordan)	Do Gender Differences Exist in the Publication Productivity of Accounting Faculty?	Journal of Applied Business Research
Stan Clark (with Charles Jordan)	Earnings Per Share: What Is Its Real Purpose?	Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives
Stan Clark (with Charles Jordan and Gwen Pate)	Earnings Manipulation to Achieve Cognitive Reference Points in Income	Academy of Accounting Studies Journal
Stan Clark (with Charles Jordan and Mary Anderson)	Unusual Digital Patterns in EPS: Evidence on the Association between Earnings Management and Company Characteristics	Journal of Business and Economics Research
Stan Clark (with Charles Jordan)	The Effect of Adopting FIN 48 on Large Oil and Gas Firms	Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly
Stan Clark (with Mary Anderson)	Maximizing the Tax Benefits of Education Expenses	CPA Journal or Practical Tax Strategies
Stan Clark (with Jim Henderson and Gwen Pate)	The FASB's New Rules for Exchanges of Non-monetary Assets: A Possible Avenue for Earnings Management	Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives
Steve Jackson	The Impact of Using an Auditing Novella in an Undergraduate Auditing Class	Issues in Accounting Education
Steve Jackson (with Rod Posey)	Use of Sunk Costs in Decision Models and the Impact on Teaching	Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives
Steve Jackson (with Marvin Albin)	Professional Ethics: Perceptions of Auditing Students	Journal of Accounting and Finance Research
Steve Jackson (with John Brown)	Zia Motors: A Case Study	Issues in Accounting Education
Charles Jordan (with Stan Clark)	SFAS No. 158 Spells Double Trouble for the Balance Sheet	Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly

Charles Jordan (with Stan Clark)	Do Gender Differences Exist in the Publication Productivity of Accounting Faculty?	<i>Journal of Applied Business Research</i>
Charles Jordan (with Stan Clark)	Earnings Per Share: What Is Its Real Purpose?	<i>Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives</i>
Charles Jordan (with Stan Clark)	Earnings Manipulation to Achieve Cognitive Reference Points in Income	<i>Academy of Accounting Studies Journal</i>
Charles Jordan (with Stan Clark and Gwen Pate)	Unusual Digital Patterns in EPS: Evidence on the Association between Earnings Management and Company Characteristics	<i>Journal of Business & Economics Research</i>
Charles Jordan (with Stan Clark)	The Effect of Adopting FIN 48 on Large Oil and Gas Firms	<i>Oil, Gas & Energy Quarterly</i>
Charles Jordan (with Stan Clark and Mary Anderson)	Using Endogenous Variables to Predict Price/Earnings Ratios	<i>The National Accounting Journal</i>
Charles Jordan (with Mary Anderson and Gwen Pate)	The Financial Statement Effects of Adopting FAS 123R	<i>Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives</i>
Gwen Pate (with Charles Jordan and Stan Clark)	Earnings Manipulation to Achieve Cognitive Reference Points in Income	<i>Academy of Accounting Studies Journal</i>
Gwen Pate (with Mary Anderson and Charles Jordan)	Financial Statement Effects of Adopting FAS 123 (R)	<i>Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives</i>
Gwen Pate (With Jim Henderson)	Development of a Model to predict success rates of students in Intermediate Accounting I	<i>Journal of Education for Business</i>
Jim Henderson (with Stan Clark and Gwen Pate)	The FASB's New Rules for Exchanges of Non-monetary Assets: A Possible Avenue for Earnings Management	<i>Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives</i>
Jim Henderson (with Gwen Pate)	Development of a Model to predict success rates of students in Intermediate Accounting I	<i>Journal of Education for Business</i>
Rod Posey	Phishing and Accounting Students	<i>CPA Journal</i>
Rod Posey (with Marvin Albin)	An Analysis of Audit Opinions Received by County Governments of Selected States	<i>Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives</i>
Rod Posey (with Steve Jackson)	Use of Sunk Costs in Decision Models and the Impact on Teaching	<i>Journal of Business and Economic Perspectives</i>
Bob Smith	Hybrid Entities and U.S. Tax Treaties	Unknown
Bob Smith	An Introduction to U.S. Taxation of International Transactions	Unknown