

*Editorial*

**USM and AACSB:  
Willful and Ongoing Failures of Integrity**

James Lang in "[Cheating Inadvertently](#)," *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported "Academe doesn't have hard-and-fast criteria for what constitutes plagiarism..."

So true.

Our [case research](#) reported the behavior of faculty and administrators at the University of Southern Mississippi and the AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) when concern was expressed that they had copied without proper citation other school's documents during reaccreditation.

I was well aware of the complexity of plagiarism. The title of my research was University and AACSB Diversity (tolerance of different views/speech) because plagiarism, as Mr. Lang makes clear, is an issue of integrity. We observed a series of administrative and faculty dishonesty in dealing with accusations of "copying without proper citation." And most important to our findings was that the AACSB and miscreant faculty and administrators refused to participate in a discussion of what constitutes plagiarism. The AACSB had and still has an opportunity to advance a discussion of what should be considered plagiarism. Their audience and influence makes it especially relevant because the AACSB accredits hundreds of business colleges worldwide.