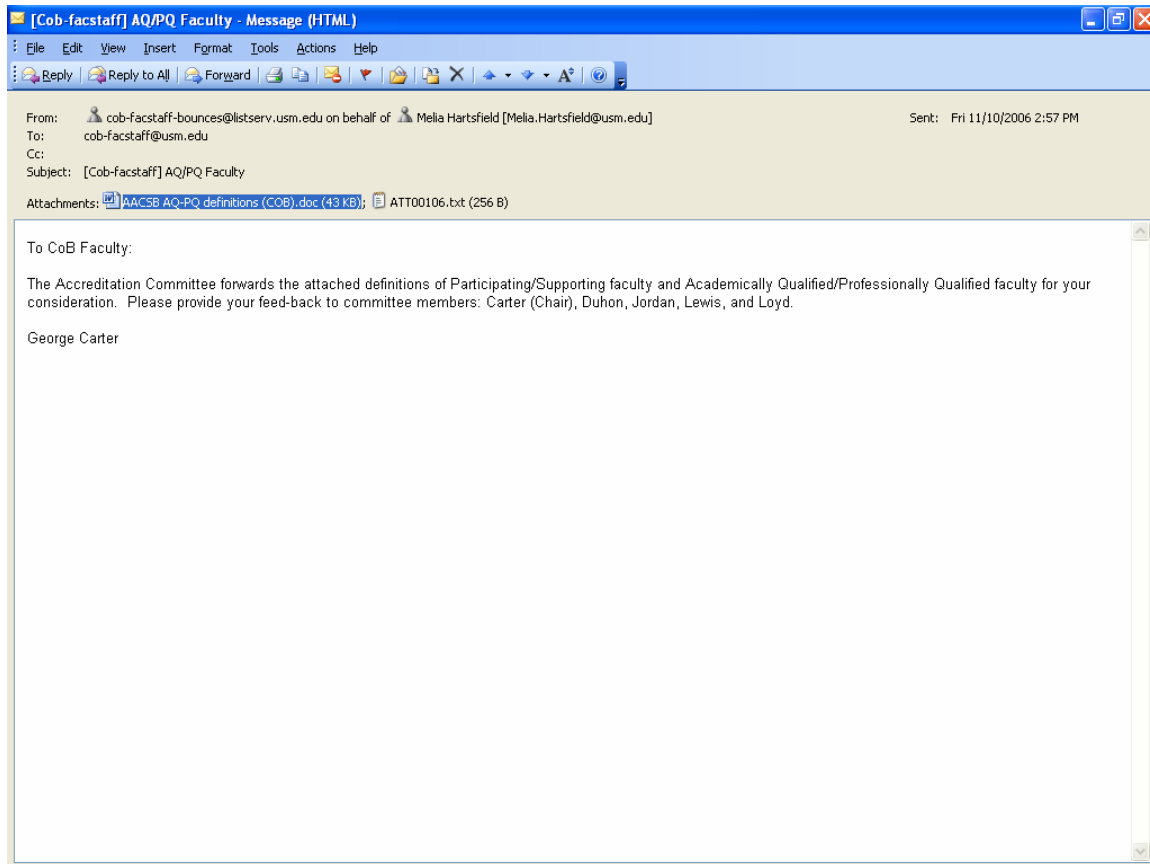


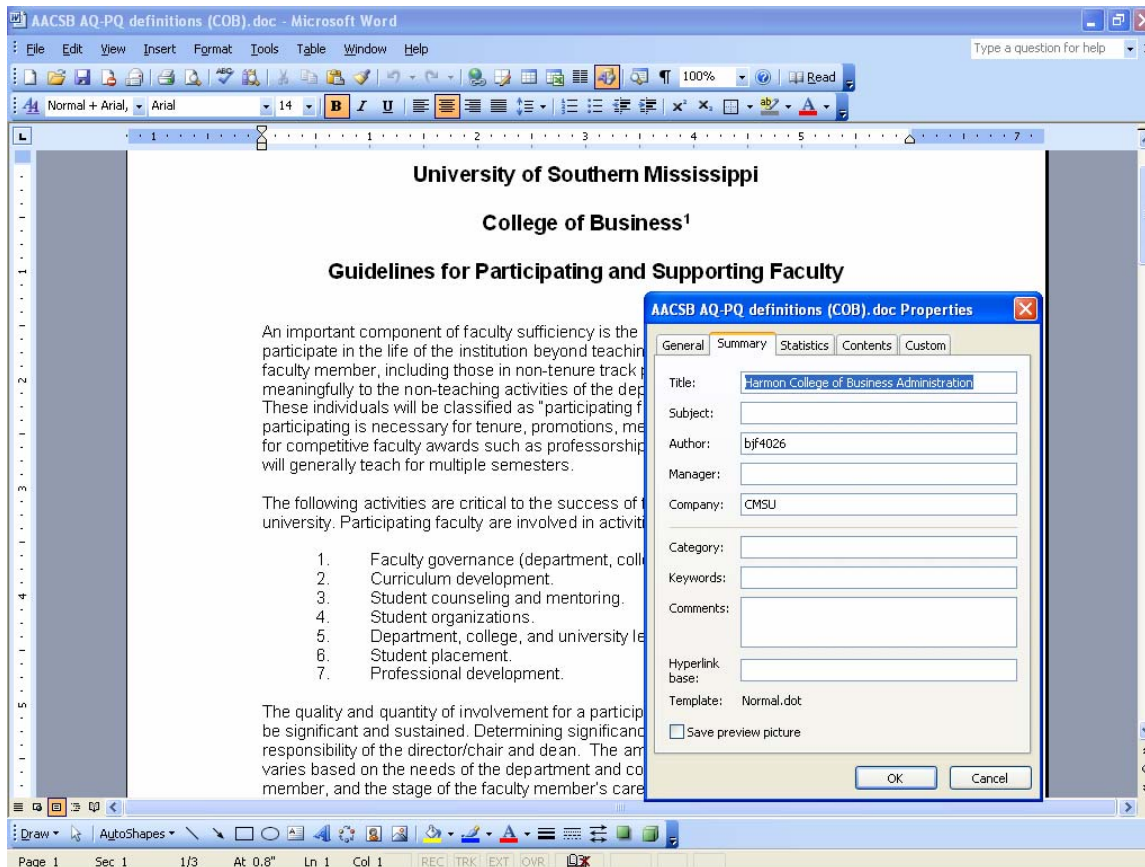
Plagiarism in the CoB?

On November 10, 2006, a document entitled "Guidelines for Participating and Supporting Faculty" was circulated throughout the CoB via email. The following screenshot displays that email that was sent to all CoB faculty by Melia Hartsfield:



The CoB's Accreditation Committee (Carter, Duhon, Jordan, Lewis, and Loyd) apparently spent many hours constructing the CoB's "Guidelines for Participating and Supporting Faculty." At least that's what a first look at the lengthy document might lead us to believe.

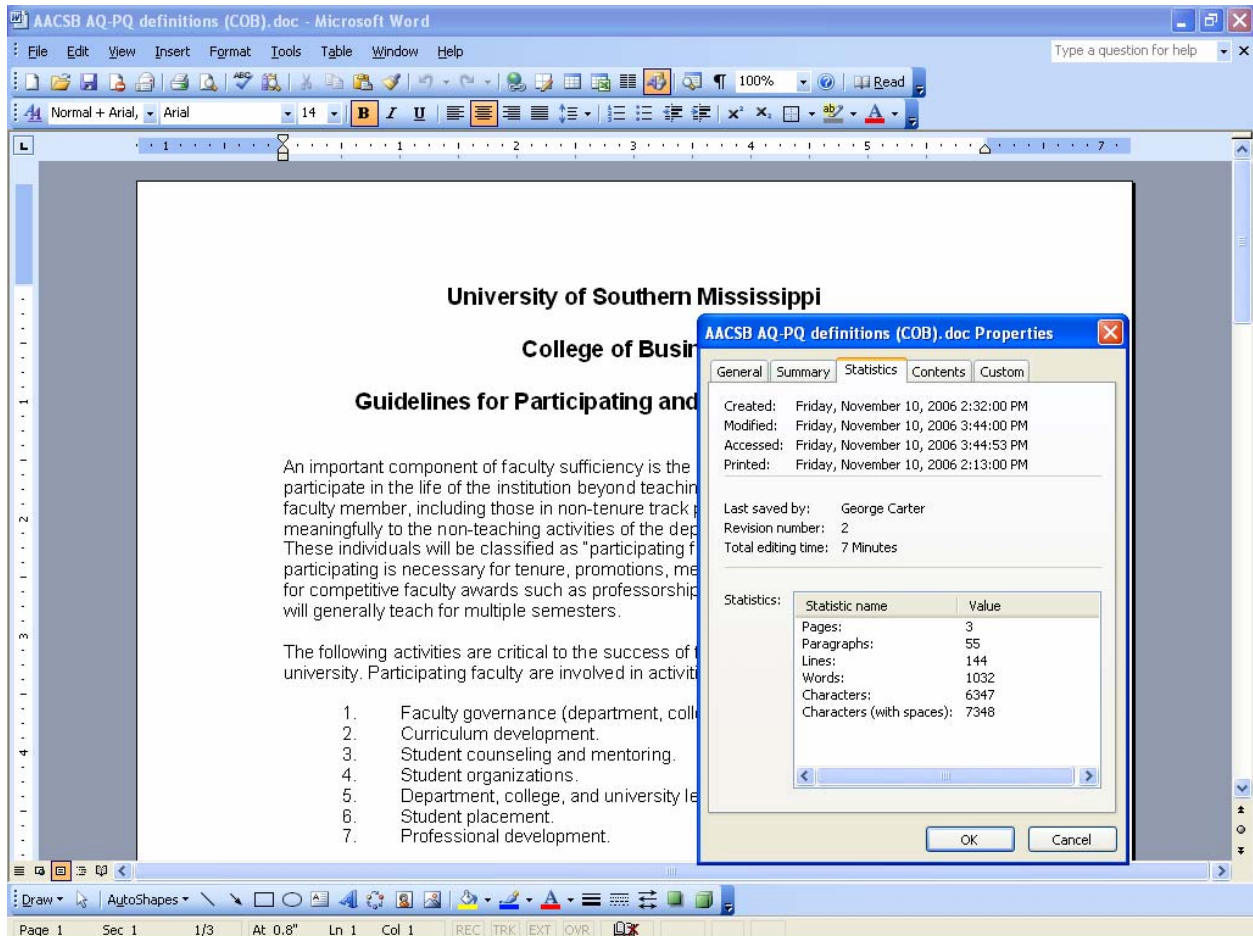
However, usmpride.com researchers, in their usual diligence, uncovered a number of interesting details about the document, as seen in the screenshot below:



The "Title" of the document, according to the Microsoft Word Properties function is "Harmon College of Business Administration" and the Company is "CMSU." A quick Internet search reveals that the Harmon College of Business Administration is the proper name of the business school at Central Missouri State University (CMSU). CoB faculty can

verify this in their own copies received via email from Hartsfield. Make a mental note of the "Author" - "bjf4026". We'll address the author issue later.

Also using the Properties function, we can determine just who it was that last saved this document:



As the reader can see, the document was last saved by "George Carter," the Chair of the CoB's AACSB Accreditation Committee. The "Total Editing Time" reflects the amount of time that Carter

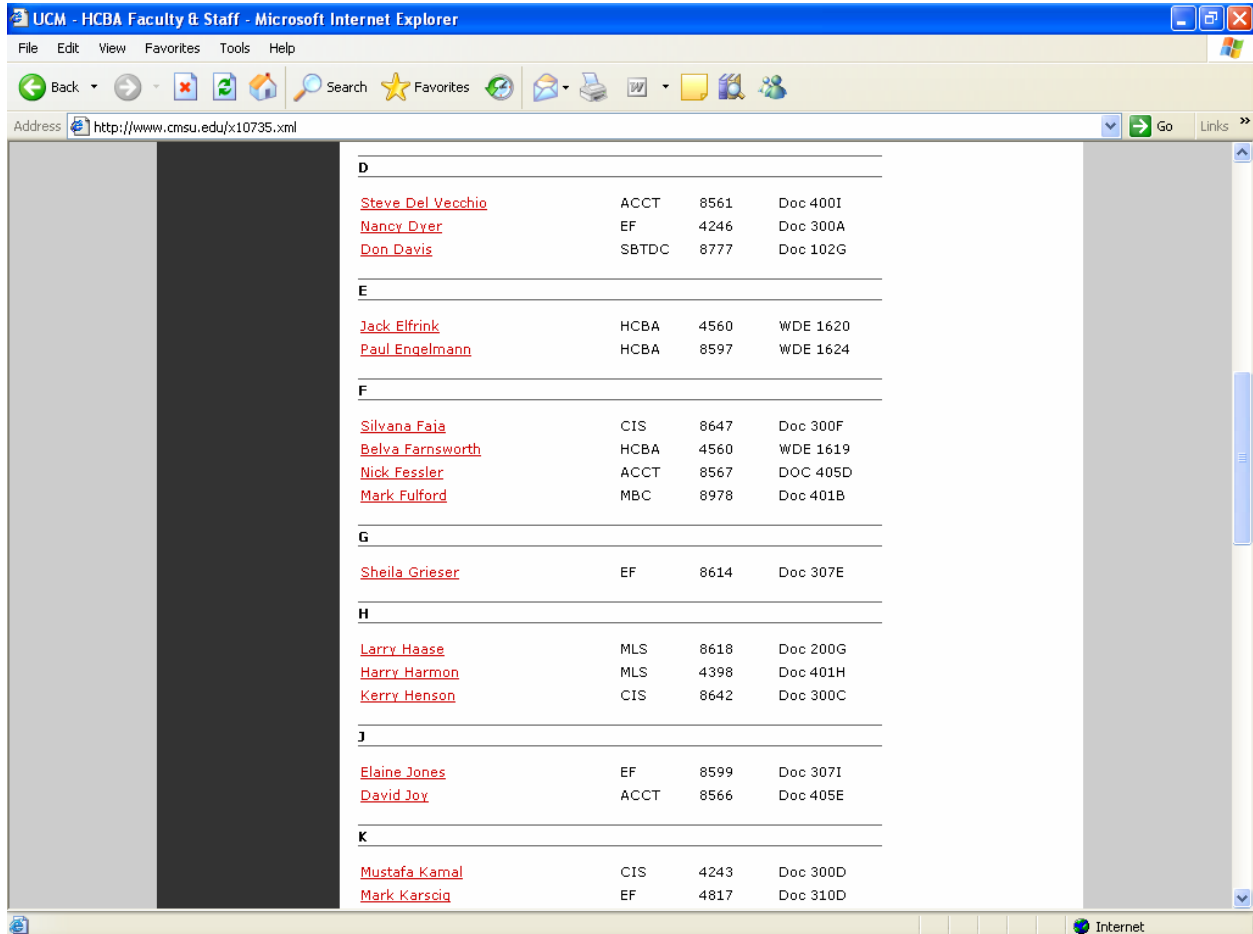
and the other Committee members spent modifying the CMSU document. As you review your copy of the document, keep in mind that the "Total Editing Time" will increase. However, every time the document is reopened, the number resets to "7 minutes" (unless you edit the document), reflecting the amount of time that the CoB's Accreditation Committee spent editing the CMSU guidelines. The "Last saved by" will be the same as is shown above.

Now, just who is "bjf4026"? Examination of the Harmon College of Business Administration's website yields the following result:

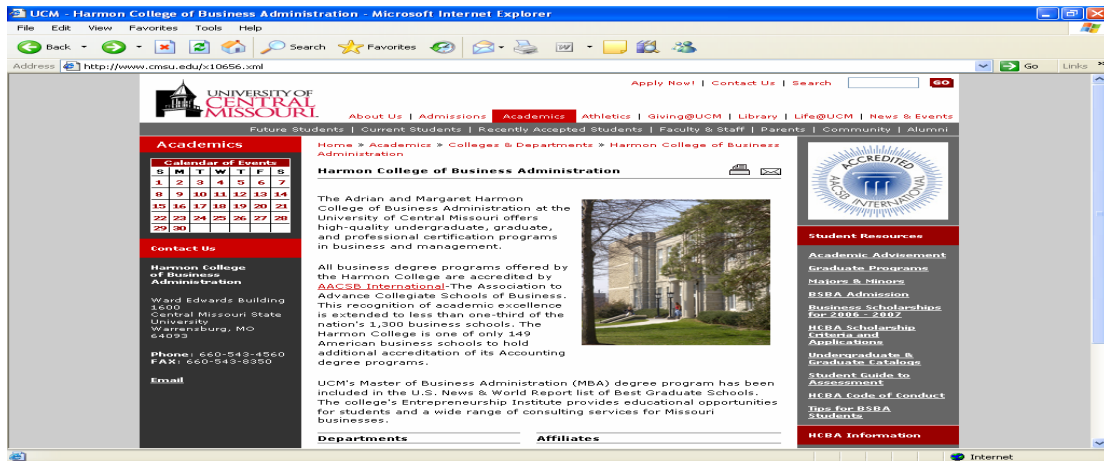
The screenshot shows a Mozilla Firefox browser window with the address bar displaying `http://www.cmsu.edu/x5606.xml`. The browser's menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Go, Bookmarks, Tools, and Help. The address bar has a search button and a Go button. Below the address bar is a toolbar with various icons for Best of the Web, Channel Guide, Customize Links, Free Hotmail, Internet Start, Microsoft, Windows Marketplace, Windows Media, Windows Update, and Windows. The main content area displays the University of Central Missouri logo and navigation links: About Us | Admissions | Academics | Athletics | Giving@UCM | Library | Life@UCM | News & Events. Below these are links for Future Students, Current Students, Recently Accepted Students, Faculty & Staff, Parents, Community, and Alumni. The page content is organized into a grid. On the left is a red sidebar with the heading "Academics". The main content area has a red header with the breadcrumb "Home > Academics > Colleges & Departments > Harmon College of Business Administration > Belva Farnsworth". Below this is a profile for "Belva Farnsworth" with a printer and email icon. To the right is a "Contact Information" box with the following details: Phone: 660-543-4560, Office Address: WDE 1619, Email: farnsworth@cmsu1.cmsu.edu. The profile text includes: Administrative Assistant, Harmon College of Business Administration, Central Missouri State University, 1997-present; Library Assistant, Trails Regional Library, Odessa, MO, 1994-1997; Owner, Farnsworth Furniture Upholstery, Odessa, MO, 1980-1995; Professional Associations: International Association of Administrative Professionals. A portrait photo of Belva Farnsworth is shown. At the bottom of the page is a footer with copyright information: Digital Millennium Copyright Act | Warrensburg Community Link. UCM - P.O. Box 800 - Warrensburg MO 64093 | 800-729-2678 | Campus Operator: 660-543-4111.

Done

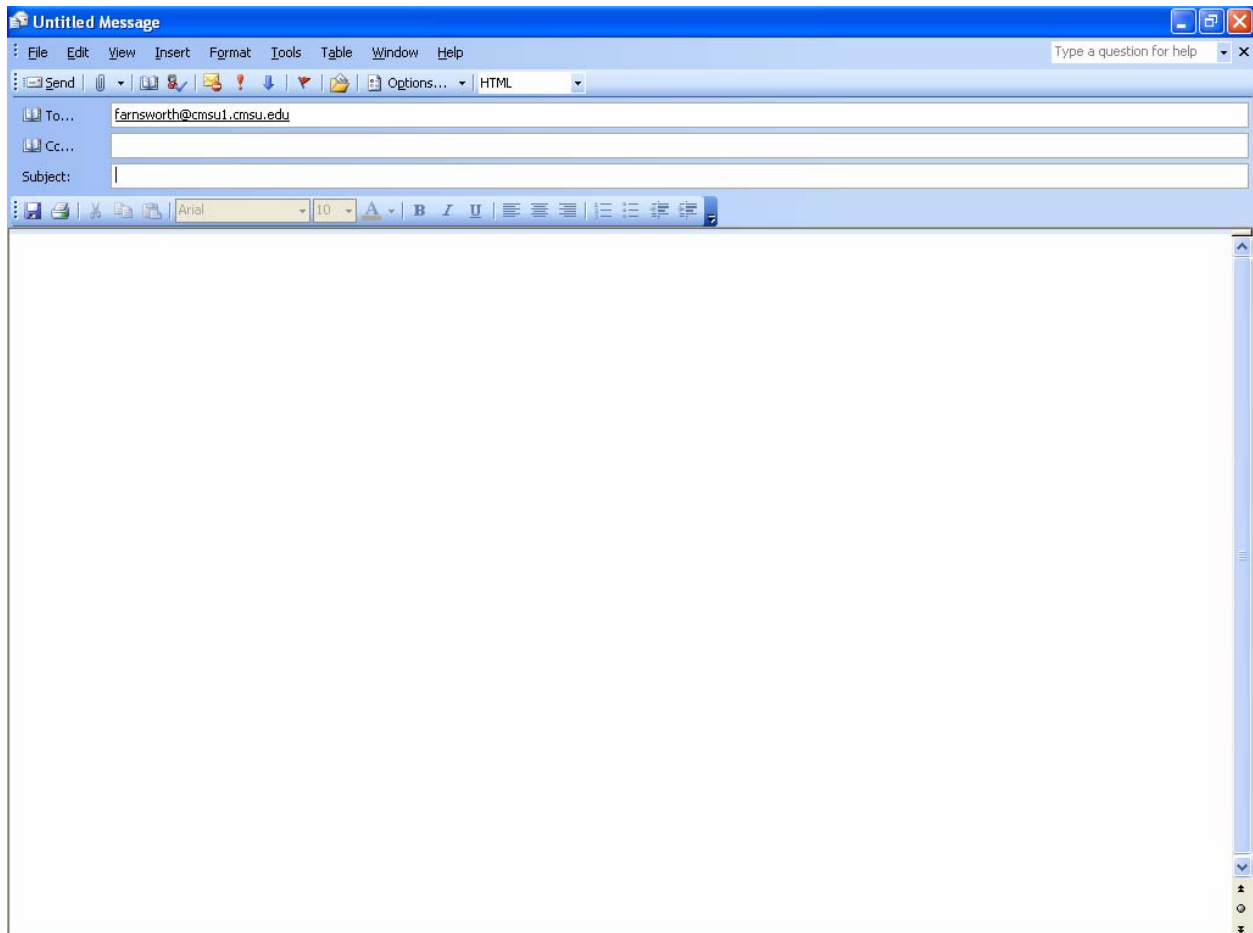
Notice that the initials "bjf" most likely correspond to Belva Farnsworth, pictured above. In fact, there is no other employee of the Harmon College of Business Administration with the initials "bjf":



Additionally, the Harmon College of Business Administration has an email link on its website that allows an Internet surfer to contact the HCBA. The link is shown below:



When one clicks the "Email" link on the lower left side, the following appears:



The email would go directly to farnsworth@cmsu1.cmsu.edu, the exact email address listed on Belva Farnsworth's page above. Farnsworth is apparently the CMSU HCBA Dean's administrative assistant.

It seems as though Accreditation Committee members in the CoB obtained the file copy of CMSU's guidelines for participating and supporting faculty from Belva Farnsworth, made 7 minutes' worth of changes, and had the "new" document emailed to CoB faculty at USM, passing it off as the labors of the CoB's own Accreditation Committee. The reader may verify these facts using his or her own file copy of the document.

It also seems clear that CoB's Accreditation Committee and Administration has no problem passing off the work of others as his own. Thanks to Belva Farnsworth, some of these individuals will probably get a \$10,000 raises next May.

Is this the way ethical leaders conduct business?