

Editorial

Well, Where Are They, Skip? The Quality Publications You Promised, That Is.

I was browsing the faculty publication at the School of Accountancy. And the question is, Skip Hughes, Director of SoA, where are the quality publication you promised? You've been Director since 2009, and still not one quality publication from any faculty member at SoA. Not one. That's plenty of time to demonstrate [your performance](#).

I reported [years ago](#) that:

Director Hughes told me "[things are going](#) to change around here [University of Southern Mississippi School of Accountancy]." He made this solemn promise in a discussion of research he expected faculty to accomplish now that he was Director of the School of Accountancy. He wasn't the first new director to make such pledge. I advised Hughes that he would have to change faculty who for decades published only in low quality journals. I also wished him luck.

Not only has the accounting faculty not published in quality journals, Skip has joined them by publishing in low level journals like *Oil, Gas, & Energy Quarterly*.

Let's continue with the previous usmnews.net report.

Director Hughes memorialized his commitment [years ago] to quality in the [SoA Mission Statement](#) which includes a faculty requirement to publish quality research articles.

However, let's match his words with what the faculty is really doing. If Director Hughes accomplishes the mission that faculty produce quality research articles, then Associate Professor Mary Morgan Anderson must be publishing quality research articles – or is she? According to USM's [webpage](#) for the School of Accountancy:

"Research – Publications (2008-2010)

Associate Professor Mary Anderson

Jordan, C., Clark, S., & Anderson, M. (2008). Unusual Digital Patterns in EPS: Evidence on the Association Between Earnings Management and Company Characteristics. *Journal of Business & Economics Research*, 6 (1), 31-40."

Mary Morgan Anderson published only one article in 2008, 2009, and 2010. **[And nothing since then, according to SoA website reporting her publications as of January 31, 1013.]** Anderson was the third named

author –the first two being SoA Professor Charles Jordan and former SoA Professor Stan Clark. Typically, the order of names indicates she contributed the least of the three, particularly when the names are not presented in alphabetic order.

Furthermore, the *Journal of Business & Economics Research* is the lowest level of publication with a College of Business' Journal Ranking of "O" (other). A rank of O is equivalent to a "D" for a student grade. "O" is one step above putting research in the trash it is so unworthy. In terms of the School of Accountancy's/Director Hughes' mission "to extend the knowledge boundaries of the accounting discipline," it's on a par with what to expect from a graduate student's first foray in the publication process—like extending personal knowledge, not extending "the knowledge boundaries of the accounting discipline."

If that weren't enough, Director Skip Hughes' personal criteria place Dr. Anderson's research *in* the "trash." Director Hughes specified his criteria for evaluating journals and articles in our conversations that he insisted on recording. Hughes would observe, according to his own standards, that "Accounting" is not in the title of the journal's or the article's title. He can't support, according to his own standards, an article without "Accounting" in the journal title and article title. He would also point out that the article is not about "how I love depreciation," so it will not pass Hughes' "Kosher" criterion. And, let us not forget Hughes' most important journal evaluation criterion: "LSU would say you're smoking dope on this, okay?" [Keep in mind that Hughes, insisting that his words be recorded, insisted that "Accounting" has to be in the title, "how I love depreciation" has to be the subject of the research, and the "LSU smoking dope" standard he applies to determine the quality of the journal.]

That means that the "Journal of Business & Economic Research" should have earned Dr. Morgan between a zero and one out of a possible score of five on the annual evaluation for research. [Without any publications since 2008, Anderson should have gotten a score of zero for research for the past several years.] Given the fact that Director Hughes assigned a zero score for an award winning A-level publication by this editor, perhaps Dr. Hughes should be considering disciplinary action against Dr. Anderson for her failure in research.

Furthermore, if Director Hughes fails the mission that faculty produces quality research articles, perhaps the Interim Dean should consider whether Director Hughes remain as director.

[The bottom line:](#)

Things have not changed around here, Director Hughes.

And how much are we paying you, Skip? \$200,000+? Whose head do we need to examine for hiring you? Skip, as a former military person, I'm sure you know what ROAD means. Retired on active duty.

Where are the quality publications, Skip?