

Special Report

Aspiring to Worse?

An Investigative Report on the CoB's AACSB Accreditation

The 14-Dec-07 announcement -- that the CoB's AACSB probation had been lifted -- came as a surprise to many CoB faculty. Not only did the conclusion come down from AACSB headquarters in less than 12 months since its decision to assign the CoB a 6th Year Review, it also came from an organization that chose to forgo an actual visit to Greene Hall, the home of USM's College of Business. More than one source has since told USMNEWS.NET that the AACSB's most recent finding is also perplexing simply because the CoB is demonstrably worse, as an organization, today (14-Dec-07) than it was at the time the CoB's AACSB Peer Review Team visited in February of 2007.

Table 1
Faculty & Refereed Journal Articles Lost, Feb-07 AACSB Visit to Dec-07 "Good News"

<u>Name</u>	<u>Articles Lost</u>
Babin, Barry	33
Babin, Laurie	11
Lopez, Tara	5
Sawyer, Charles	37
Gregory, Brian	3
Haggard, Dana	0
Haggard, Stephen	1
Madaris, Michael	1
Lewis, Stanley	10
Hallab, Zaher	5
Salter, Sean	9
Michael, Daniel	0
Yang, Jie	17
Williams, Alvin	<u>17</u>
	149

As the information in Table 1 above indicates, the CoB lost **14** faculty who took (or will take) with them **149** journal publications. The loss of 14 faculty easily represents more than **20 percent** turnover in just 10 months (2/07-12/07). The per-faculty publication rate across the 14 faculty above is equal to **10.6**, a figure that is *more than 3.5 times* the publication rate necessary for an "Academically Qualified" record in the CoB. More than any one piece of information, Table 1 shows that the AACSB accredited an organization (in Dec-07) that is much worse than the organization it assigned a 6th Year Review to just 10 months before. And just think -- the CoB's next AACSB review is only about 48 months away from now.