

The Headless Horseman Rides Again

An Editorial from **Victoria Tyler**

CoB dean Lance Nail must feel like the headless horseman heading into the CoB's 2012 AACSB re-accreditation season. That would be because the list of *tenured* associate and full professors from the CoB's rank-and-file (non-administrative) faculty has dwindled down to endangered species levels. The actual list, for interested readers, is provided below, with each academic unit presented alongside:

Mary Anderson – Accounting
Cherylynn Becker – Management
Brigitte Burgess – Fashion Merchandising
Marc DePree – Accounting
Michael Dugan – Accounting
Charles Jordan – Accounting
Ernest King – Business Law
Francis Laatsch – Finance
Fujun Lai – Management
James Lindley – Finance
James Magruder – Statistics
Roderick Posey – Accounting
Jennifer Sequeira – Management
Robert Smith – Accounting
William Smith – Marketing
Sharon Topping – Management
Michael Wittmann – Marketing
Kenneth Zantow – Management

The total is 18; that's right, there are only 18 tenured faculty among the rank-and-file in USM's business college. If that number isn't atrocious enough, consider that tourism management is entirely unrepresented, and that there is only one finance faculty among those listed, while marketing adds only two to the list of 18. Consider also that two of the 18 – Dugan and Laatsch – were not even around when the CoB's last re-accreditation attempt occurred in early 2007, nor were they around later that year when the now-*infamous* 6th Year Review took place. What's more is that one of the 18, Robert Smith, reportedly resides in Atlanta, Georgia, while another, Jordan, lives in Panama City, Florida. Of course, that represents two of the six CoB accountants on the list.

Speaking of *tenured*, Zantow, also on the list above, acquired his through a very controversial "4th Year Tenure Review," which appears to have been the result of his long-standing association with former CoB dean Harold Doty, now the embattled business dean at the University of Texas-Tyler. Though tenured, Roderick Posey is now well known for his "more than 100" publications claim. Of course, very few of those 100 were ever verified. A third person on the list above, Cherylynn Becker, also has a questionable past in USM's CoB. In the months leading up to the 2007 AACSB re-accreditation, Becker had a meltdown of sorts and verbally assaulted a CoB administrative assistant. Of course, then-CoB dean Doty supported Becker, not the administrative staffer.

The gist of it all now is that the number of tenured professors among the CoB's rank-and-file is alarmingly low. On top of that, many of those who are around have questionable pasts. As a result, Nail will, in large part, be on his own in dealing with the 2012 re-accreditation effort, his first ever as a b-school dean. Readers should perhaps expect a rocky ride in the months ahead.