

**Updated 27-April-2010 – See Below**

## The Kingdom Ignored

*One of the AQ-PQ Debacles that Almost Cost the CoB AACSB Accreditation*

There are so many reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.net that describe how former CoB dean Harold Doty completely bungled the USM b-school's 2007 AACSB re-accreditation effort that it would take one a weekend to go through them all. One aspect of that debacle is how what sources have referred to as Doty's "personal agenda" blinded the former CoB dean to the task then at hand – securing the AACSB's favor. Arguably, the most prominent example of this came via Doty's unexpected and unwarranted attack on CoB legal studies professor Ernest King.

Shortly after the CoB's AACSB Peer Review Team informed Doty and former CoB associate dean Farhang Niroomand (in 2007) that the CoB was being put on AACSB probation (i.e., 6<sup>th</sup> Year Review), Doty called a meeting with King to inform him that (1) he was being moved into accounting, and (2) that he was going to be classified by Doty, et al. as neither Professionally Qualified (PQ) nor Academically Qualified (AQ).<sup>1</sup> King has extensive private sector legal practice experience, a fact that was known by many in the CoB at that time. Thus, Doty's decision in this regard – one that potentially harmed the CoB's AACSB 6<sup>th</sup> Year Review – was without justification. What was likely less well-known is that King had published in respectable academic journals well before 2007, and was more than adequately engaged in his research program in the years leading up to the CoB's 2007 PRT visit, as supported by the flood of publications during the 2008-present period. Much of the lack of information is likely due to the traditional CoB practice, at least as far as administration is concerned, of keeping faculty vitae secret.<sup>2</sup> The level of secrecy regarding vitae allowed CoB administrators like Niroomand, former EFIB chair George Carter, and others to propagandize against faculty who might dissent or otherwise not support some of the behind-the-scenes deeds of administration.

Table 1 below shows some of the research that King has produced during his tenure in the CoB. Included there are A-level journal publications in two separate fields – finance and marketing.

Table 1 – King's Journal Publications Trail

<u>Year</u>	<u>Journal Publications</u>
2010	<i>Journal of Real Estate Finance &amp; Economics</i> <i>Real Estate Law Journal</i> <i>Social Science Journal</i> <i>Travel Law Quarterly</i>
2009	<i>Economics Bulletin</i> <i>Journal of Real Estate Research</i> <i>Real Estate Law Journal</i>
2008	<i>Atlantic Economic Journal</i>

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<sup>1</sup> Some of this story is [recounted](#) by columnist Duane Cobb in a column contained in the Archives.

<sup>2</sup> There are many reports in the Archives on the secrecy of faculty vitae in USM's b-school.

	<i>Humanomics</i>
	<i>Journal of Public Finance &amp; Public Choice</i>
	<i>Journal of Tourism</i>
	<i>Managerial Finance</i>
	<i>Real Estate Law Journal</i>
2007	
2006	
2005	
2004	
2003	
2002	
2001	
2000	
1999	
1998	
1997	<i>Journal of Legal Studies in Business</i>
1996	<i>American Business Law Journal</i>
1995	<i>Journal of Legal Studies Education</i>
1994	<i>Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science</i>
	<i>Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science</i>
1993	
1992	<i>Journal of Business Ethics</i>
1991	<i>Midwest Law Review</i>
1990	
1989	<i>Nursing Administration Quarterly</i>
1988	
1987	
1986	<i>Business Insights</i>
1985	

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In many ways King's research record resembles that of economics professor Akbar Marvasti. Both began in 1985, both have gaps, yet both include 20-25 journal publications (with a similar number of As).<sup>3</sup> Where they differ is in *recent* activity. While King seems to be highly engaged at the moment, Marvasti's research program appears to be fizzling.<sup>4</sup> Not only did King have a shot at the 2009 *Louis K. Brandt Faculty Research Award*, he is currently in a two-person race (with management's Brian Collins) for the 2011 *LKBRA*.

Perhaps the best way to ponder King's research efforts is by way of a Brain Drain Illustrated-type of presentation. The insert below includes each of King's journal publications, beginning with the first and concluding with the most recent. In between are publications in the *Journal of Business Ethics*, the *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science*, the *Journal of Legal Studies Education*, *American Business Law Journal*, *Real Estate Law Journal*, the *Journal of Real Estate*

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<sup>3</sup> Marvasti, however, did not come to USM until 2006. His earlier years were spent largely as a faculty member at the University of Houston – Downtown.

<sup>4</sup> See reports in the Archives about Marvasti's practice of resurrecting decade-old research projects as a way of appearing to be engaged in a research program.

Research, and the *Journal of Real Estate Finance & Economics*. This record is easily large enough to create a sucking sound should King depart the CoB for another institution.

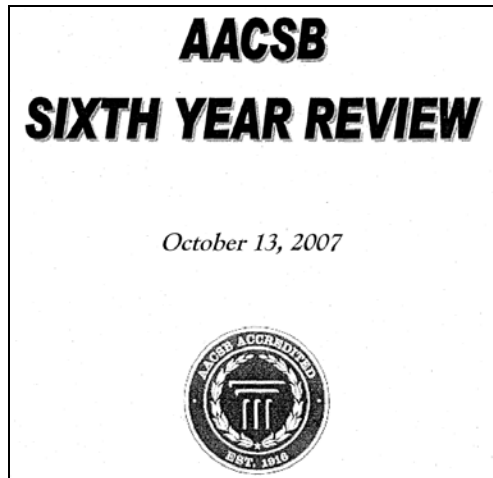


As the Duane Cobb column linked above points out, Doty's successor, interim CoB dean Alvin Williams, would not only reverse Doty's decision and classify King as PQ, Williams would also classify King as AQ. Surely these decisions, which were easily justifiable, enhanced the CoB's case to lift the AACSB probation, something Williams accomplished (getting the probation removed) before departing the CoB for the University of South Alabama in 2008. And, it's history like this that shows the academic community just how disastrous the Doty administration (2003-07) was for the CoB.

### Updated 27-April-2010

Shortly after this report appeared on USMNEWS.net a reader informed USMNEWS.net that Ernest King was not listed as PQ in the CoB's 6<sup>th</sup> Year Review dossier for AACSB in the fall of 2007. Of course, this tip was contrary to what was circulating in the CoB at the time, as all reports indicated that then-interim CoB dean Alvin Williams had reversed former CoB dean Harold Doty's classification of King as non-PQ. As reported before, King has extensive experience in the legal field, qualifying for a PQ classification in legal studies education.

To investigate the tip, USMNEWS.net reporters obtained a copy of the CoB's 6<sup>th</sup> Year Review report for the AACSB, which was put together during fall semester of 2007. To establish the timing of events, the cover page of the CoB's 6<sup>th</sup> Year Review report is inserted just below:



As the insert makes clear, the CoB's 6<sup>th</sup> Year Review was finalized on 13-Oct-07, just 2.5 months before the end of the year. The section pertaining to King's status is Table 10-1, part of which is inserted below:

**Table 10-1: Summary of Faculty Qualification, Intellectual Contributions and Professional Responsibilities (2002-2007)**

Department / Faculty Name	Highest Earned Degree & Year	Date of First Appointment to School	Percent of Time Dedicated to the School's Mission	Acad Qual	Prof Qual	Other	Number of Contributions during the last five years						Normal Professional Responsibilities
							Learning & Pedagogical Scholarship		Discipline-Based Scholarship		Contributions to Practice		
							PRJ	OIC	PRJ	OIC	PRJ	OIC	
King, Ernest	J.D., 1983	1985	100%			Yes					18		UG

In the insert above, the arrow identifies the space that shows whether a particular CoB faculty is to be counted as PQ. Note that in King's case, Williams, et al. left the space blank, preferring instead to classify King as "Other." Thus, not only was the Williams administration propagating false information regarding King's status for AACSB, it was acting much like the preceding Doty administration in recklessly managing the CoB's 2007 AACSB reaccreditation program.