

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., 6th 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).¹ 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 6th 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.² 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

Year	Journal Publications
2010	<i>Journal of Real Estate Finance & 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>
	<i>Humanomics</i>

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

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

	<i>Journal of Public Finance & 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	

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).³ 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.⁴ 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 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.

³ 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.

⁴ 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.



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.