

Getting To Know Your Cob Up Close And Personal (Under Oath):

We continue “Getting to know your CoB...” with accounting Professor Charles Jordan.



Dr. Charles Jordan, Professor School of Accountancy and Information Systems

What was on his mind, like what was on Instructor Patty (Polk) Munn’s mind, quickly rose to the surface without much prompting. In Dr. Jordan’s case, instead of confusing novels with facts like Ms. Munn, he simply doesn’t acknowledge the difference between benchmarking and plagiarism. (Q: attorney’s question; A: Dr. Jordan’s response.)

Q. And have you discussed with [the actual author] whether or not he intended to give you permission to use or adapt that definition [the author’s written work]?

A. I have not -- I have not spoken with him personally, no.

Q. You know anyone who has?

A. No.

Q. When you requested the information, did you tell them or inform them that you were doing so with an eye to potentially using or adapting or borrowing their information?

A. I did not tell them that specifically. It was certainly implied because of the whole process. The whole notion of benchmarking is fairly common with the AACSB to benchmark in best practice...”

Benchmarking is to “evaluate by comparison with a standard.” (American Heritage Dictionary). Plagiarism is copying another’s words or ideas “without proper citation.” In a sense, Dr. Jordan understands this distinction because when he wrote a confidential note to an administrator at the original author’s school—after getting caught copying the document almost verbatim, he asked for permission to copy the document “without proper citation.” He did not ask to benchmark their work. Furthermore, instead of saying, for example, “Oops, I made a mistake, he continues to rationalize copying another’s words or ideas “without proper citation.”

As his testimony clearly demonstrates, Dr, Jordan is not contrite about his behavior. It might be best if he confessed and repented. His friend and fellow accounting professor, Dr. Stan Clark, is

well known for providing religious advice and consultation. Therefore, Dr. Jordan might seek Dr. Clark's guidance toward contrition.