

AACSB ACCREDITATION: A RELIABLE AUTHORITY ON ACADEMIC QUALITY?*

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ABSTRACT

During preparations for reaccreditation, a colleague noticed that the College Accreditation Committee represented other Colleges' documents as their own. He consulted several faculty. They advised the Dean and Committee that the documents were without attribution. The Dean and Committee ignored them. Subsequently, the Dean submitted the questionable materials to the **Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)** during reaccreditation. After internal efforts to discuss the documents failed, faculty informed the AACSB that the documents were copied "without proper citation." The actions of the AACSB inform their constituency and public of a neglected dimension of accreditation: What does the AACSB do when challenged with evidence of alleged violations of its standards? Is the AACSB a reliable authority on academic quality? The evidence in this report supports that the AACSB did not persuade an accredited member to follow its standards and was not, therefore, a reliable authority on academic quality. And the subject of the AACSB's failure was an accredited College of Business that chose to violate its own code of integrity and compounded its failures by punishing faculty who asked questions.

Key words: Accreditation; AACSB (Assembly to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business); Failure of Academic Quality and Integrity.

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The following names of individuals appear in this report and are listed in the order found in the report. They earned their places through their choices and actions. Their contribution to harming academic freedom is for the reader to assess. Most are professors and administrators who have been observed bemoaning academic misconduct of colleagues or students but when it came time for them to act with integrity, they chose to oppose it or stand by and watch its corruption.

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