

Accounting

A department in the Isenberg School of Management offering the B.B.A. and the M.S.A.

■ The Review Process

This was a “mini-review,” conducted near the mid-point of the normal ten-year accreditation cycle of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). The review focused on topics specified by the AACSB as a result of ongoing discussion following the most recent accreditation visit (1996). No visiting team was required.

■ Executive Summary

The continuing concern of AACSB’s Accounting Accreditation Committee has been “resources, and the related impacts on programs, faculty adequacy and activities, and facilities.” In particular, after a status report submitted in 2000, the AACSB requested another update on resource and faculty adequacy.

The Department’s response, submitted in July, 2001, reported that there had been no net change in the number of faculty since the accreditation in 1996, but also no significant change in teaching demands. The number of undergraduate accounting majors had remained stable, the Department had frozen admissions to its Master’s program, and participation of Department faculty in the M.B.A. had remained stable.

The Department noted that the School’s new, more centralized faculty hiring process has made it possible for the Department to argue for resources for key initiatives, and that this resulted in the hiring of a senior faculty member in information technology.

For the future, the Department reported that the School plans to “very gradually increase the size of the faculty from its current level of 56, to approximately 70.” However, the School “has also given explicit recognition to the fact that the School is unlikely to receive increased funding for faculty positions from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (or central university administration) in the foreseeable future, and hence has recognized the need for attracting private endowment money.” The Department therefore reported that its prospects for increased faculty will rely on the success of fundraising efforts within the School, and also on revenues that could be generated by a proposed fee-based Master’s program in Accountancy.

Student Outcomes Assessment. Outcomes assessment issues were not central to this mid-term review.

Results of the Review. On September 19, 2001, the School was notified by AACSB’s Accounting Accreditation Committee that the interim report had been accepted, and that it was “clear that improvements have been made.” However, the Committee stated that it continued to have “serious concerns” regarding resources, and warned that “a decline in faculty combined with a new program next year could be a concern for future accreditation.” Another interim report was requested by July, 2003.