

April 24, 2014

Robert S. Sullivan, Chair, Board of Directors  
John J. Fernandes, President & CEO  
AACSB International  
777 South Harbour Island Boulevard, Suite 750  
Tampa, Florida 33602 USA

Dear Bob and John,

We are writing this letter on behalf of the Federation of Schools of Accountancy (FSA) Board. As you are aware, the FSA is made up of member schools who have earned separate accounting accreditation at the graduate level. Our goal is to provide information and resources to our member and affiliate schools and those schools seeking separate AACSB accounting accreditation. It is with this mission in mind that we write to you today regarding accounting representation at the AACSB.

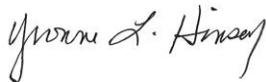
Since accounting accreditation was first approved in 1981 many schools have taken advantage of AACSB's separate accounting accreditation option. There are now 171 accredited accounting programs in the United States and 10 internationally. This means that 34% of all accredited business schools in the United States also have separate accounting accreditation and 26% of all business schools worldwide carry this distinction. These percentages do not include the nine new accounting accreditations in process. Therefore, accountancy programs now account for a significant percent of the total accredited academic units and a major revenue source for the AACSB.

For the first time since 2004, we may have neither an AACSB CEO nor Chief Accreditation Officer that is from the accounting academic community or profession. While we expect that anyone appointed to either of these two executive positions will fully support accounting accreditation efforts, we believe the AACSB executive team should include at least one C-level member with extensive experience in accounting accreditation. Currently, Jerry Trapnell represents these accounting schools for a limited horizon. We respectfully request, at least in the short term, that an accountant continue to represent accredited accounting programs at the AACSB in a position similar to Jerry's current position. In the longer term, we request the AACSB Board consider a full-time executive position dedicated to accounting accreditation interests. Sustaining and enhancing executive level support for accountancy is something that we believe is desirable given the significant number of existing institutions holding accounting accreditation and the growing number of institutions seeking separate accounting accreditation.

We also urge the AACSB Board to consider dedicating accounting positions on the Board of Directors. While we understand that accountancy is represented on the Board, we also understand that there are currently no dedicated positions specifically from the accounting academic community or profession. We request that the Board make a bylaw change to include accounting Board positions representative of the percentage of institutions holding AACSB accountancy accreditation. Historically, someone from the accounting profession has held one of the industry positions, but such representation is not guaranteed in future Board appointments. Formalizing proportional representation of accountancy programs on the AACSB Board of Directors would help ensure the continuing high-level cooperation and communication necessary for accomplishing the long-term goals and success of business and accounting accreditation.

Thank you for your consideration of our short-term and long-term requests. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions regarding these requests.

Sincerely,



Yvonne Hinson  
FSA President  
Wake Forest University



H. Fred Mittelstaedt  
Immediate Past President  
University of Notre Dame