The Maintenance of Accreditation Committee (MAC) met on Friday, November 20, from 9:00-10:30 AM in the Dean’s Conference Room.

The School of Accountancy (SOA) has a parallel process at the same time for their maintenance of accreditation. Earlier this Fall, they chose their peer and aspirant schools, selecting University of Central Florida (UCF) as an aspirant school. Last Spring, we selected UCF as a peer school. The committee agreed that it would be awkward to have the same school in different classifications. Since we have been struggling to identify aspirant schools, the committee felt it appropriate to move UCF to the “aspirant” group.

In sending out the agenda for the meeting, Jim attached two files, one listing the schools considered by the SOA in their determination of peer and aspirant candidates, and a file that listed AACSB business schools under various criteria. Jim asked the committee to look at these lists of schools to see if there were any additional schools that we should add to the aspirant list. Currently, the aspirant list includes George Mason, University of Louisville, and UCF.

We may also add one school to the list of peer schools to replace UCF. Jim will send to the committee a list of schools that we had nominated previously to see if there is a consensus choice to add to the list.

Jim had also sent to the committee the mission statement from the strategic plan. Accreditation Standard 1 states, “The school periodically reviews and revises the mission statement as appropriate.” As it has been more than three years since we developed our mission statement, Jim felt it appropriate that we review the statement before our MAC visit. Jim will distribute the statement to the CBA faculty and staff and invite comments and suggestions. The committee will review all suggestions at its next meeting which will take place in the Spring semester.

Jim had requested each department/center to identify 3 major objectives for this academic year which tied into the strategic plan. Jim distributed the list that will be posted at the CBA website.

The committee discussed that some of the objectives/action items in the strategic plan had been accomplished or were no longer appropriate. We discussed whether it would make sense to revise the plan at this time. We view the plan as an ever evolving document. Bill Baker, who was instrumental in the development of the plan, has accepted a position as department chair at the University of Akron next year and has withdrawn from the Steering Committee (SC). Bill was previously on this committee as a faculty representative from the Steering Committee, so Jim will ask the SC at its next meeting for advice as to faculty representation on the committee. It was suggested that it would be good to have someone from the strategy area help in this discussion of the strategic plan. Mike Hergert, as former Dean and someone who has taught in the strategy area was mentioned as a good person to help in this area. Jim will contact Mike to gauge his possible interest.
A critical step in the assessment/assurance of learning process is "closing the loop," an activity intended to strengthen programs by making changes based on assessment data. Kathy gave a presentation on an activity that has been incorporated this Fall in one section of MGT 405 as a means of closing the loop on the essential business knowledge of students in our undergraduate program.