Consultative Report

INSTITUTION

MAINTENANCE OF ACCREDITATION VISIT CONSULTATIVE REPORT

Date of Review:

October 29, 2006 – October 31, 2006

Peer Review Team Members:

Dr. Ruth W. Epps, Virginia Commonwealth University (Vice Chair)
Dr. Gerald McDougall, Southeast Missouri State University
Dr. Barron Harvey, Howard University
Dr. George E. Stevens, Kent State University (Chair)

The following items are offered in the spirit of consultative suggestions for improvement. They are not related to AACSB International accreditation standards or the accreditation recommendation.

1. In reviewing the faculty sufficiency and faculty qualifications numbers the team was unanimous in its agreement that all appropriate thresholds were met. We feel, however, there is one opportunity to further strengthen the faculty. The faculty has a number of experienced, well qualified supporting faculty who may not be that far from meet expectations for Professional Qualification. Certainly those individuals who you see yourself retaining on a longer-term basis may be worth the investment, support, and encouragement to pursue earning PQ status. Consider a careful review of your cadre of supporting faculty to determine the extent to which selected members of that group currently classified as “Other” might become either Professionally Qualified or Academically Qualified.
2. Promote all the wonderful things the School of Business and Economics is doing. There was evidence the Accounting program is outstanding, other academic programs are not far behind, and there are professors who have garnered system-wide and university wide attention for their superb teaching. The School has a long history of excellence as evidenced by its initial accreditation of the School in 1979 and separate accreditation of its Accounting program in 1986. Embrace your Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) heritage and mission but also promote the School beyond the realm of HBCUs.

3. Promotion of the university may be further enhanced if the business school continues to refine its judgments regarding the arenas it will participate in and the specific ways the School will seek to differentiate itself in the years to come.

4. The Transportation Institute and other economic development units have done a fine job of serving the community. Given the loss of a significant grant, the faculty involved and the School should make every effort to replace lost funds if doing so is consistent with the future mission and strategic directions of the School of Business and Economics.

5. Continue the development of the trading room to assure planned implementation and total operations by the Fall of 2007.

We note that these comments are suggestions that in no way impact our decision with regard to accreditation but do represent opportunities for continued improvement.