

I wanted to share with you the good news from AACSB this morning that we have received reaffirmation of our accreditation.

While the formal extension of accreditation is satisfying, the qualitative observations of our very sophisticated peer review team are actually inspiring.

Among other “best practices” that the review team identified here at Drucker and which they described as “exceptionally effective practices that demonstrate leadership and high quality continuous improvement in management education:”

Our emphasis on The Drucker Difference;

Developing the Drucker Institute;

Rekindling the reputation of the school;

Excellent faculty-student relationships;

Creating an environment where learning is maximized;

Building and growing the financial engineering program to meet market demands and leveraging the synergies between Math and Management; and

Growing the EMP to meet the needs of our region and in a way that aligns so well with the Drucker brand.

The team also identified, importantly, an excellent service oriented staff dedicated to the students and success of the Drucker School – and a competent and committed leadership team engaged in the implementation of the strategic plan to improve the Drucker School and move it along the path from good to great.

The team also offered some important suggestions about how we continue to improve going forward, and we will take those observations equally

seriously. I know that President Klitgaard and the Board of Trustees have already embraced the review team's recommendations regarding "securing the place of Drucker within CGU and the Claremont system" and making strategic investments in new faculty and staff that are consistent with our growth objectives. They encourage the Drucker Institute to proceed boldly; for us to infuse the Drucker Experience throughout the curriculum; to require all of our students to take The Drucker Difference; to strengthen internships; to attract more recruiters; to expand experiential learning experiences; to develop strategic partnerships with target companies; to better engage alumni; and to strengthen career placement capabilities. Happily, we agree with these suggestions and are making good progress on all these fronts.

Two closing thoughts: my deep gratitude to Associate Dean Hideki Yamawaki, who was on point for this major review, and who was the able captain of a team that included Roberto Pedace and Kerry Boyle – all of whom did us proud.

Lastly: the review team felt our passion and the intensity of your commitment to the cause. They felt it from everyone: the President, Trustees, faculty, students, and staff. They complimented you on your talent. They felt our palpable momentum and progress. They see for us many opportunities. They feel we have a highly differentiated and enviable set of assets. They believe that this is the time to accelerate progress on many fronts and to leverage our assets and the needs in the marketplace to make a big difference in our sector and in society at large.

What a wonderful charge to spur us all along!

Here's the note I received this morning:

On behalf of Judy Olian, Chair, AACSB International Board of Directors, it is our pleasure to inform you that the Peer Review Team's recommendation to extend accreditation of the business degree programs offered by your School has been concurred with by the Maintenance of Accreditation Committee and ratified by the Board of Directors. Congratulations to you, the faculty, students, staff, and all supporters of the business programs.

AACSB has produced a general news release containing the names of all schools that have recently achieved initial accreditation or maintenance of accreditation. If you have any questions about the news release or announcing accreditation in your local area, please contact Natalie Bedore, Manager, Member Services, at natalie@aacsb.edu or (813) 769-6515.

Your achievement will also be recognized at the AACSB International Conference and Annual Meeting to be held in Honolulu Hawaii.

Official correspondence confirming the extension of accreditation will arrive within the next few weeks.

Again, congratulations from the entire accreditation staff at AACSB.

All the best,

Ira

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