

QUALIFIED FACULTY: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Panel Discussion

Moderator: Lilly Lancaster, University of South Carolina - Upstate

Panelists:

Robert T. Barrett, South Carolina State University

Ron Green, The Citadel

M. Barry O'Brien, Francis Marion University

Participants on this panel discussed their experiences in developing definitions of academically qualified (AQ) and professionally qualified (PQ) faculty. The session began with a brief overview of AACSB Standard 10. It should be noted that this session was in no way endorsed by AACSB; only opinions of the participants were expressed. The panelists are Deans from AACSB accredited schools. The moderator is a former Dean from an AACSB accredited school. Participants on this panel represent small state supported schools. Specific definitions were presented and critiqued by the panel and the audience. Tables 10-1 and 10-2 were discussed. The audience shared experiences and definitions of AQ/PQ. Also presented were methods of recording and presenting faculty qualifications.

Standard 10 of the AACSB International Eligibility Procedures and Accreditation Standards for Business Accreditation provides the basis for this discussion.

Concerning AQ faculty, the standards document indicates the basis for judgment and guidance for documentation and lists examples to augment the definition. The document states: Academic qualification requires a combination of original academic preparation (degree completion) augmented by subsequent activities that maintain or establish preparation for current teaching responsibilities.

Concerning PQ faculty, the document states: Professionally qualified faculty can be an important component of the total faculty resources deployed by the business school. Professionally qualified faculty members can be key to ensuring that students have learning experiences that reflect current business practice and understand the link to research and theory. The deployment of professionally qualified faculty within the context of these standards should be viewed as an appropriate strategic decision that is consistent with supporting high quality academic programs and the mission of the business school. Both relevant academic preparation and relevant professional experience will be required to establish a faculty member as professionally qualified. Normally, the academic preparation should consist of a master's degree in a field related to the area of teaching assignment. Normally, the professional experience should be relevant to the faculty member's teaching assignment, significant in duration and level of responsibility, and current at the time of hiring. The burden of justification regarding professionally qualified faculty rests with the school under review.