

*[For Distribution to AACSB Educational Members on 10/1/18]*

Subject: Update on Temple University

Dear AACSB Educational Members,

I am writing to provide a report from the AACSB board of directors meeting on Saturday, September 22. As you are likely aware, Temple University has publicly acknowledged that the Fox School of Business submitted false information to *U.S. News and World Report*. As a result of this data falsification, Temple has informed AACSB that state and federal agencies and its regional accreditor, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, have made various requests for information and initiated inquiries, and at least one class action student lawsuit has been filed. Due to the seriousness of the situation, the board believes it is important to provide updates to the educational membership as necessary on board actions related to this case.

In response to these events, AACSB initiated a process to carefully examine this matter, with particular attention to the ethical behavior expectations outlined within the [Standards for Business Accreditation](#). After engaging in several conversations with Temple officials, an AACSB review team conducted a special site visit on September 17 to obtain further information, and in particular, to review and initiate proactive monitoring of the adequacy and effectiveness of controls that Temple indicated it has implemented to prevent a recurrence. The review also evaluated the sufficiency of Temple's strategic plan to provide accurate and transparent public-facing information going forward.

AACSB takes this breach of ethical conduct very seriously. As a result, the board approved the following actions, which on September 28 were conveyed to Temple University:

- AACSB will continue close evaluation of Temple through special peer review team site visits in three consecutive years (2018, 2019, and 2020) to monitor the progress of the implementation of controls, and for the university to demonstrate the efficacy of such controls in ensuring the accuracy and completeness of public-facing information.
- AACSB will continue to monitor ongoing external reviews and outcomes, and will remain in frequent communication with Temple and Fox School of Business officials in respect to these matters, as well as with regard to implementation of its internal controls.
- Temple University has been requested to withdraw its application for supplemental accounting accreditation, subject to further review by the AACSB Accounting Accreditation Committee (AAC) at its January 2019 meeting. At that time, the AAC will make its recommendation on when, and under what conditions, the supplemental accounting accreditation application may be resubmitted.

Temple has been informed that it may disclose these actions to its faculty, staff, and/or students, but must accompany such disclosures with a complete copy of this communication sent to AACSB educational members.

In accordance with AACSB policy and procedures, the Fox School of Business at Temple University remains AACSB accredited. Future accreditation action, if any, is dependent on the outcome of external reviews, as well as ongoing AACSB reviews, which will consider any additional information that may become known in the course of our reviews and those of other agencies. Members of AACSB executive leadership and the AACSB board of directors are actively involved in all phases of this inquiry and directly support the efforts and recommendations of the review teams.

A cornerstone to AACSB's accreditation lies within the process of continuous improvement. This is a course where individuals and organizations can grow stronger by learning, evolving, and improving. In this spirit, we will continue to remain vigilant to the best interests of all of AACSB's constituents—schools, students, and businesses alike.

AACSB accreditation represents the highest standard of quality in business education. We will act responsibly, fairly, and with the highest ethical standards as guided by our governance policies and procedures. We will always uphold and protect the value and integrity of the AACSB brand on behalf of our accredited schools and members—as we have done for more than 100 years—as the world's leader in improving and transforming business education. At the same time, it is the absolute duty of our members to exemplify the highest standards of quality, integrity, and reputation in the market. We believe that our actions in this matter are consistent with this dual responsibility.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caryn Beck-Dudley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Best regards,

Caryn Beck-Dudley  
Chair, AACSB International