



June 2, 2023

Michele V. Gee
Dean
University of Wisconsin-Parkside
College of Business, Economics, and Computing
900 Wood Road - Molinaro 357
Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141

Via email: gee@uwp.edu

Re: Letter of Concern

Dear Dean Gee:

AACSB International is committed to sustaining quality and continuous improvement of collegiate education for business administration and accounting and takes a proactive role in assuring that our accredited schools are held to the highest levels of quality. When conduct by a member school appears to be contrary to AACSB accreditation standards and policies, we reserve the right to investigate accordingly and if warranted, conduct an off-cycle peer review visit per AACSB Guiding Principle 10 of the 2020 business accreditation standards.

AACSB has received a complaint related to courses taught within the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) Flex Program. As an accrediting body dedicated to integrity and transparency, we have the responsibility for determining the veracity of the allegations contained within the complaint, which are as follows:

Allegation 1: Dr. Sahar Bahmani, a professor in the BSBA Flex program, engaged in fraudulent grading practices between 2016 and 2022. The complaint specifically claims that over a five-year period, for the three courses taught by Dr Bahmani, she awarded all but three students a grade of Mastery with Distinction. This allegedly occurred in cases in which some of the students completed partial or no coursework.

Allegation 2: Dr. Bahmani, Ph.D. Economics, was employed to teach courses in Strategic Management, Project Management, Operations Management, and Business Law, assigning herself 11 courses for which she may not have been qualified to teach according to AACSB standards for faculty qualifications.

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AACSB requests the school prepare a response to this letter of concern, addressing the following specific concerns:

- a. Does the college believe these allegations as stated above have merit? If yes, explain how the school is remediating the situation where students have received inaccurate assessment of their competency in any courses within the scope of this complaint. (Guiding Principle #1: Ethics and Integrity)
- b. Provide an overview of how the college demonstrates that learners are achieving learning competencies for the BSBA Flex Program, and how the school uses its assurance of learning (AoL) data to improve the BSBA Flex curriculum and associated processes. Furthermore, describe what corrective actions the school is implementing to ensure the integrity of the AoL processes moving forward, including oversight mechanisms. (Standard 5: Assurance of Learning)
- c. Describe the controls that are in place to ensure that grading policies are followed in the future. The college should also address how it prepares and supports BSBA Flex students' academic progression toward degree completion, including clear and effective academic performance standards and processes that are consistent with degree program competency goals. (Standard 6: Learner Progression)
- d. In keeping with Standard 3: Faculty and Professional Staff Resources, faculty are qualified through initial academic or professional preparation and sustain currency and relevancy appropriate to their classification. Faculty are qualified to teach in disciplines closely related to their academic preparation. Please describe how the college identifies which faculty teach specific courses and when exceptions are made, how they are made and by whom. (Standard 3: Faculty and Professional Staff Resources)

Please submit your response to this letter within 30 days to stephanie.bryant@aacsb.edu. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please reach out via email or phone 813-389-0388.

Sincerely,

Stephanie M. Bryant, PhD
Executive Vice President and Global Chief Accreditation Officer

- c: Suzanne Mintz, Vice President of Accreditation, AACSB
Lauren Maradei, Senior Accreditation Manager, AACSB
Rachel Dixon-Zudar, Senior Accreditation Manager, AACSB

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