College of business seeks national accreditation

By John Ejloma
Staff Writer

The college of business administration is just one step away from being granted a national accreditation, said dean of the college, Dr. Rexford Hauser.

According to Hauser, the agency has selected four deans from four universities in the nation to conduct a preliminary insight report on the USL college of business administration in January.

The visiting deans are from the University of Texas at San Antonio, California State University at Hayward, University of Western Michigan at Kalamazoo and the University of Southern Illinois at Edwardsville.

"What can happen," Hauser said, "depends on the report of the visiting deans. In some situations, a school could be deferred, denied or granted accreditation."

"We are very satisfied with the agency's selection because the deans come from schools that are about the same as USL. I am confident we will gain accreditation as we have already scaled the difficult points," he said.

Hauser said only four schools in Louisiana have gained national accreditation. They are LSU, UNO, Louisiana Tech, and Northeast Louisiana University at Monroe.

According to Hauser, USL is accredited under the Southern Association of Business Schools.

"What we are now striving for is a national accreditation," he added.

"The significance of being accredited nationally is to make sure that someone else is looking at our programs and that we have achieved the standards set by the National Board of Education. This will enhance our capacity to attract instructors and students," Hauser said.

The preparation for accreditation has been going on for the past seven years.

"What made it a little difficult is that we are pursuing accreditation at both the undergraduate and graduate levels at the same time. A couple of years ago, it was done one at a time. It used to take two years for the undergraduate and five years for the graduate level," he added.

"I am very confident of our preparations. The whole purpose is to ensure qualitative education. To get to the point where we are now has taken tremendous efforts on the part of faculty and students. We will need their continuous help in selling the university and the college," Hauser said.

Student president of the college of business administration, David Comeaux said, senators in the department will meet soon to discuss what role students are going to play.

"The sad part is that most business students I spoke to don't even know what the accreditation is all about. What we are going to do is make them aware of what is going on and prepare them for the deans' visit. We need students to ask questions and get involved with the preparations," Comeaux said.

"One of the advantages of gaining accreditation is the enhancing of our degree as far as the business community is concerned. It will put us in the elite group of business schools in the nation," he said.

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DR. REXFORD HAUSER

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