LOOKING BACK

Dean McIntyre asked me to write the inaugural note for the new web site for the Richards College of Business. The title seems appropriate since I was at the beginning and am still hanging around. Many of you were not here nor even alive at the time, and you may find these comments interesting and some of them challenging.

West Georgia College moved from a junior college to a four year status in 1959. The only two-year program that remotely related to Business was a two-year secretarial science program. In 1963, The Board of Regents of The University System of Georgia approved the establishment of a Baccalaureate Business degree program. In 1964, without even a Department, but just a loose affiliation within the Division of Social Science, the program began as a Bachelor of Science in Business and Economics and except for the Chairman, without a single faculty holding the doctorate in Business. In 1965, the first department of Business Administration was established. With a rapid growth in student enrollment, the program developed rapidly and soon students wanted other majors.

Faculty recruitment soon became the number one priority, especially for doctorates. Not only was the concern on doctorates, but faculty of high ethics and the ability to teach. Success was mostly achieved in this area.

As enrollment continued to grow and the development of other departments, the Board of Regents granted the programs Division status to put the Business Administration areas on the same level as the other areas, e.g. Arts and Science, Education, Social Science and Humanities.

As the programs grew and our emphasis on quality increased, other colleges and universities began to recognize the Business programs' statute, it was decided to seek formal recognition through accreditation by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB). After a year of self-study AACSB granted accreditation in 1984. This was considered a very high recognition since only about 10% of all business programs were accredited by the AACSB at that time.

As all major academic areas kept growing, they were reorganized as schools, thus our Division of Business and Economic Studies became The School of Business, and the Board of Regents appointed me as Dean.

After receiving accreditation and bringing a chapter of Beta Gamma Sigma to the School of Business, I told President Townsend that it was time to get a new dean with a new vision and new energies for the job. Thus,
Dr. David Hovey was appointed Dean, at which he served exceedingly well, taking the School of Business well beyond where he received it.

In addition to maintaining accreditation at the undergraduate level, his leadership brought accreditation to the MBA and the graduate program in Accounting.

When the Board of Regents elevated all schools at the University of West Georgia, the School of Business became the College of Business. The College of Business was renamed the Richards College of Business in honor of Roy Richards, Sr., Founder and President of Southwire Company, the largest independent wire company in the United States. Mr. Richards was a generous benefactor of the University and College of Business.

After Dean Hovey retired, Dr. Jack Johnson served as dean and Dr. Ara Volkan served as interim dean and kept the College of Business in good stead.

In searching for a new Dean, the Board of Regents approved a very outstanding lady with a new vision and energy for moving the College of Business to new heights.

LOOKING AROUND

As I see it, not only has Dean Faye McIntyre kept the vigor and high ethical climate alive, but has increased it. With the addition of top qualified faculty, staff and new programs, especially in the international area, the College of Business is on sound footing. The Richards College of Business is recognized by some national publications as one of the top business colleges in the South.

LOOKING FORWARD

It is very difficult to forecast the future, especially with the economy as it is and revenue being tight in most states. Also, very important is the changing shape of businesses due to Federal intervention, and one may wonder what authority managers may have in running their businesses. Whether large corporations or small independent ventures, there are some tough times ahead for these firms and for collegiate programs that help prepare the managers.

However, I venture to say that if the Richards College of Business keeps its focus and maintains its high principled directions, it will be able to more than maintain its position but advance with its strong leadership under Dean McIntyre, whatever comes.