

Interview with Jack Fuller
2/5/08, 11 a.m.
Cacapon Room, Mountainlair

Interview start time: 10:59 a.m.

Roy Nutter: Explained Jan Boyles' role as recorder. Instructed Fuller that any comments may be made public once investigation concludes.

RN: Describe overview of service in the West Virginia University College of Business and Economics.

JF: Received bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State. Received master's in quantitative methods from University of Iowa. Received Ph.D. in operations management from University of Arkansas. First academic appointment – University of Oklahoma – Norman. Served as Associate Dean at Northern Iowa – Cedar Falls. Came to WVU in 1985. Served in administrative capacity in 18/22 years. Worked as division director of BUSA.

JF: Under previous dean, Syd Stearns, the COB's departments were merged into divisions. Stearns did away with department chairs. Marketing, IR and management were merged into division of BUSA. Fuller will step down from post in June 2008. Communicated intentions to Jerry Lang.

RN: Issues reminder that all statements made by Fuller may become public. (Refers to BUE 4). Looks at course listing. Fuller listed as faculty. Can Fuller verify his role as instructor on BUE 4?

JF: Taught required course in eMBA. (Refers to gradebook). In Spring 1998, there were two cohorts – Charleston and Morgantown. Taught [REDACTED]. Records show that she [REDACTED] in the course.

RN: What do you have as the title for that class?

JF: [REDACTED]

Michael Lastinger: We have two listings (from BUE 4, HEPC 1) – one for [REDACTED] and one for [REDACTED]. Which is the correct title?

JF: "Not sure." Has [REDACTED]

ML: Can you tell us Bresch's grade in the course?

JF: Talked to Jerry Blakely. Said it was acceptable for him to share student grades. Bresch had [REDACTED] percent in class. Received [REDACTED] in the course.

RN: Asks Fuller for copy of his grade book page. Asked him to sign/date the document, and send in campus mail to Boyles.

RN: Anything else that you'd like to share?

JF: Has "taught in the program for quite a while." Looked for records all day Friday/Saturday. Syd Stearns created interactive delivery system for program. Perceived across the University as "quite a thing, applauded." Created interactive classroom. "There was a push to promote the program. And when you market, sometimes you embellish a bit."

JF: "Not privy to what students were told by administrators." Paul Speaker gave hardest grades. "There were no easy grades" in the program.

RN: Did you get a class roster?

JF: "Can't really tell you." Thinks may have received a paper copy of the roster – a spreadsheet or Word document, but doesn't know. There were some points in time when grades were submitted that they were not sent on typical University form. In past, grades were sent on a spreadsheet that was given to the grad programs office. Doesn't know how got grades or how they were submitted. It was different for MBA than typical undergrad program. The reason? Didn't follow typical semester format. Because students wanted to get reimbursed from employer, they needed grades sooner than the normal process.

ML: Do you know the dates of your course?

JF: Spring 1998. Not sure about starting/ending dates.

ML: You mention that the whole college was reorganized at the time. That's the first we've heard of that. When did this occur?

JF: Would have been during Syd Stearns' time. The delivery system [for the eMBA] program, was put into place while Stearns was there.

RN: He was dean for a while, wasn't he?

JF: Yes, for five years. That's a long time for us.

RN: So he was dean from 1995-2000?

JF: I'm not sure of the timeline.

JF: (Refers to gradebook). Course number changed from MGMT 303 to 491.

ML: Remember, all course numbers were changing at that time across the University.

JF: When weekend format, class was MGMT 303.

RN: We were told by someone that students were divided into groups of four or five students, who worked together in every class.

JF: Did use teams to work on cases and field project.

RN: Were the groups pre-assigned?

JF: If they were not pre-assigned, then they would self-select team members. At the beginning of class, ask if had teams. Could look through roster and see who had same project grades and see who was in Bresch's group.

RN: Asks Fuller to look at gradebook and determine who was in Bresch's group.

JF: Based on grades on project, team members appear to be [REDACTED] and [REDACTED].

ML: You mentioned at that time there was a reorganization of the whole college. You had an absence of a department chair at the time. Who would handle issues with the MBA program?

JF: It was handled through the office of grad programs.

ML: Without a department chair, how would a faculty member change a grade?

JF: Handled through grad programs office. eMBA handled as a college program.

ML: If there was a problem with a grade in [my] college, then faculty member would refer to chair/associate dean/dean. In this situation, would the faculty member refer the grade mod directly to the grad office in the absence of a department chair?

JF: "That's my best guess."

ML: Do you have any other records for that class?

JF: No copies of case studies/write ups/exams. Nothing beyond this [gradebook] for this course.

ML: How did you submit grades?

JF: "It changed through time. We did not submit grades. I may be wrong on this, but we did not send them on the regular paper form. A request would be sent down for grades, you know, something like 'Grades are due. It's time to submit them.' I don't recall that there were bubble sheets, but I may be mistaken."

RN: When did you convert to electronic records?

JF: Spring 2003.

RN: Did you keep those records?

JF: Confusion as to how long to retain records. At the University level, believes the rule is one year. "From a faculty member's perspective, you have to assume that the grades are maintained properly."

RN: How would you know if students were registered for your course?

JF: Recently, can access MIX. Print out list of names. If not on roster, typically not registered or not paid fees. Communication would take place between grad programs office and faculty.

RN: Asks about cohort teams. If someone was in the group and didn't do the work, could the other classmates carry the student?

JF: "Probably." Assumes that there is equal responsibility and it's "not a one person deal." Some students may feel compelled to put everyone's name on case. If name is on case, everyone gets the same grade.

RN: So you can't confirm whether or not she completed the class, in that sense. Do you have her exam grades?

JF: Grading breakdown –

Case study – [redacted] percent

Field project – [redacted] percent

Midterm – [redacted] percent

Final – [redacted] percent

ML: So group work counted for [redacted] percent of the grade?

JF: Right.

RN: Did all the students in Bresch's group get the same grade?

JF: Yes. Received the same letter grade, but not the same percentage.

ML: What were Bresch's grades on the midterm and final?

JF: Midterm – [redacted] percent. Final – [redacted] percent. Would have received [redacted] with those two exams.

Interview ending time: 11:24 a.m.