

Interview with Ade Neidermeyer
1/17/08, 3 p.m.
203 Chitwood

Interview start time: 3 p.m.

Roy Nutter: Explained Jan Boyles' role as recorder.

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

Ade Neidermeyer: Professor of accounting. 36th year at WVU. Started in 1972.

RN: Can you give us an overview of what's happening?

AN: Until Dec. 30 [2007], had "no opinion and no awareness." Solicited by Jerry Blakely and Bonnie Anderson to think about records from 1998. Checked working files. Found nothing. Commented that had nothing.

AN: Received call from Pittsburgh Post-Gazette writers. Did not respond to inquiry. Surprised that people did respond [to PG]. PG writers left messages at home, office. "It's not my place to respond to the media." Received call "after reading the handling of the situation in the paper."

AN: Gives panel document (AN 1) for panel to read.

AN: Blakely has listing of cohort members/grades. Gave all relevant information to Blakely.

Michael Lastinger: How many students were in cohort?

AN: Mid teens, maybe 20 or so in cohort.

RN: What course did you teach in which you had Heather Bresch?

AN: [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]. Taught Fall 1998. ● hour class.

RN: Listed as an instructor on another course - [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]. Spring 1997. (Shows BUE 4).

AN: Verifies that he taught course in Spring 1997.

RN: And for [REDACTED], a [REDACTED] was assigned. All courses were labeled [REDACTED]. So the EMBA program began in 1995, right?

AN: Was lead speaker at graduation. Somewhere during 1995-1997.

RN: Are the course requirements same as MBA?

AN: Different mix of courses.

ML: How were the eMBA courses different? Where can we find specific criteria for the program?

AN: Ask Blakely. Didn't deal with course administration.

RN: When we look at the catalog, we see the MBA program. Nothing about eMBA. No requirements on website.

AN: Some 491 classes were independent study.

ML: Essential issue: In document prepared by Blakely (BUE 4), coursework completed 10 years ago was changed from [REDACTED] to a [REDACTED]

AN: Changes based on the recollection of meeting between Speaker, Kirby [Bresch], Leah Summers.

ML: Do you have records?

AN: Doesn't. Offered what had when Candy [Ramsey] e-mailed him. Sometimes individuals are removed from roster for not paying fees. Nine students who had grades appended. No record of those. No evidence on those.

RN: Are you aware of other students in the program that had issues like Bresch?

AN: Grades posted for all students just like everybody else.

ML: Nine students in the cohort?

AN: E-mail was ambiguous. Between Morgantown and other locations, there were likely 40 in cohort. The total number of students would vary by term. Cohorts are smaller than they used to be.

RN: Is there anyone else that we should talk to?

AN: Leah Summers.

RN: Anyone else?

AN: No conversation going on about case in COB. First heard about case in the newspaper. Suggests talking to Randy Elkin, Dieter Schaupp.

ML: Do you remember Leah Summers? Do you remember individual students?

AN: Normally. Remember and know all names by the end of the second week, so can call on them. In that light, they know they are member of the team. They come prepared.

RN: Article in PG. Credits anonymous contributor – COB faculty.

AN: PG called home/office phone.

ML: Anything else to add?

AN: Should look in bursar's office. They handle the money. Mylan used to require to keep records for 10 years. Mylan paid for eMBA degrees.

RN: Another problem – courses don't latch to semesters.

AN: Yes. Taught three week course.

RN: How do students pay?

AN: Doesn't get involved in payment. Handled by Elizabeth [Vitullo].

ML: But you do receive a University roll of students?

AN: Yes, through STAR. Enter grades there.

ML: What happens if a student is in the class, but not on the roster?

AN: Dropped for non payment, likely. Would call Candy [Ramsey].

ML: What would happen if a student was on the list, but didn't come to class?

AN: Would assign NR. Not "I." Only award "I" if a pre-reason. "I don't do 'Is.' I don't like 'Is.'"

RN: What happens if not on roster, but completed the work?

AN: You had that with executives. "They had the best of intentions." Fell into self-paced undergraduate psychology.

RN: Do courses often end after our semester?

AN: Yes. End week after graduation.

RN: Were there issues with payment recording?

AN: Those were handled by Candy [Ramsey].

RN: Asked Boyles to contact Candy [Ramsey] for an interview.

AN: "Money is going to be the substantiator."

Interview ending time: 3:23 p.m.