The American Accounting Association (AAA) Task Force responding to the NASBA exposure draft developed talking points indicating unintended consequences of proposed changes in the Uniform Accountancy Act, addressed to Business School Deans and the AACSB, Accounting Department Heads, Public Accounting Firms and members of State Boards of Accountancy.¹

Business School Deans and Accreditors:

The Exposure Draft of Uniform Accountancy Act, Rules 5-1 and 5-2 offered by the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) has numerous implications. Some of the most salient ramifications for business schools, the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB), and other accreditors are:

- It reverts from the mission driven, assurance of learning approach adopted by the AACSB and other accreditors, back to a one-size-fits-all input based model.

- It would allow an external body to dictate business and accounting curricula without significant input and consultation from affected stakeholders.

- It forces expensive curriculum changes in both business and accounting. Included among these changes are increased numbers of student credit hours in specific topical and skill areas that either would mean more course offerings or a decrease in course/program electives.

- At a minimum, it requires re-tooling of current faculty to teach specialized courses and skills and may require hiring new faculty with specializations other than those possessed by current faculty.

The American Accounting Association Task Force convened to address the NASBA proposal recommends that NASBA withdraw the current proposal. Failing that, the Task Force recommends that State Boards of Accountancy reject the proposal.

The Task Force urges business school deans to work with their accounting faculty in communicating to NASBA and State Boards of Accountancy the implications these rules would have for them. The deadline for comments on the proposal is June 30. It is urgent that you act before June 15. Contact information for State Boards may be found at: www.nasba.org. You may send comments to NASBA via email to kellis@nasba.org or by fax to 615 846-0149.

For additional information and contact details see the AAA Task Force Resource Page at:

http://aaahq.org/temp/NASBA/index.cfm

¹ These talking points were developed by an AAA task force convened to address the NASBA exposure draft and do not necessarily represent the views of all members of the AAA.