Department Heads:
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 Accounting Programs are:

- It calls for an approach to curriculum development that significantly reduces faculty control. NASBA would dictate your curriculum offerings and constrain faculty curriculum development efforts.

- It reverts from the mission driven, assurance of learning approach to curriculum adopted by AACSB, back to a one-size-fits-all input based model. The additional hours required under the proposal would further restrict cooperative education programs, internships, distance learning, international programs, and independent studies.

- It would cause a significant decline in the number and quality of students who are qualified to sit for the CPA Exam because students would select majors other than accounting that provide more flexibility in designing an acceptable program of study (such as Finance) and students in specialty areas (such as tax, information systems, and internal audit) may not qualify to sit for the exam within 150 hours. In the current environment of declining number of students sitting for the CPA Exam and an increasing demand for accounting students, adding more barriers to entry would have devastating effects for the profession.

- Accounting Department heads would need to communicate to their Deans that newly mandated standards for graduates of degree programs in public accounting will require costly and comprehensive changes not only to the accounting but also to the business curriculum. These changes are in specified credit hours and content.

- At a minimum it would require re-tooling of some or a number of current faculty to teach specialized courses and skills and may require hiring new faculty with specializations other than those possessed by current faculty. Staffing would be a problem.

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 Accounting Department Heads 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.