

Forensic & Investigative Accounting (FIA) Section American Accounting Association Mission, Objectives and 2010-2012 Strategy

The mission of the Forensic & Investigative (FIA) Section of the American Accounting Association is to foster excellence in the teaching, research, practice, continual professional education (CPE) courses and curriculum development of forensic and investigative accounting services by creating opportunities to:

- Create relevant and innovative curricula with an emphasis on effective and efficient instruction.
- Explore the knowledge-organization issues related to forensic accounting programs.
- Promote and disseminate forensic and investigative academic and practitioner research.
- Promote the practice of forensic and investigative accounting services understanding that these professions often intersect with other professions including: the law, criminology, sociology, psychology, intelligence, information technology (open sourcing, cyber-crime, digital evidence, data mining, and IT systems and control), computer forensics, and other forensic sciences.
- Create and present CPE courses to members and professionals.

Specific Objectives

Teaching and Education:

1. To stimulate discussion and experimentation in instructional means, methods and materials in the field of forensic and investigative accounting.
2. To provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and findings about developments related to instruction, learning and curricular issues in forensic accounting and investigative education.
3. To provide guidance and opportunities for members to evaluate and improve their forensic and investigative instructional methods, materials and forensic accounting and investigative skills.
4. To raise questions and to share knowledge about forensic and investigative accounting, and fraud-related materials.
5. To work with other organizations (especially fraud and litigation support practitioners) pursuing similar goals.
6. To promote the profession and encourage qualified individuals to consider opportunities in forensic accounting and investigative education by providing appropriate guidance and information about such careers.

7. To unite forensic and investigative professors and practitioners by co-creating and sharing educational materials and training.
8. To create and present CPE courses to members and professionals.

Research:

1. To initiate, encourage and sponsor research in the field of forensic and investigative accounting.
2. To encourage a broad definition of scholarship with a high priority on teaching, learning, and curricular development.
3. To stimulate discussion, promotion and dissemination of research means, methods, resources, and findings resulting from forensic and investigative accounting research.
4. To provide guidance and opportunities for members to test and to improve their forensic and investigative accounting research skills, tools, and techniques.

Forensic and Investigative Accounting Section Strategy 2010 to 2012
As of February 7, 2011

Financial “To succeed financially we must maintain and grow our membership base, break even and provide services to our membership.”

Objectives	Performance Metric	Initiatives
<p>Increase Membership: To double the membership over the next two years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % increase in membership 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement annual plans to increase FIA Forensic Section membership. • Monitor the membership of the FIA Section and prepare an annual analysis of the Forensic Section's membership list (current membership lists and a list of schools by Region may be obtained from the AAA office.) for the Executive Committee of the Section. • Present a report on FIA Section membership composition and trends and on Membership Committee activities at the Section's annual business meeting. • E-mail everyone that attended the annual conference asking them to join. • Compare last year's membership roster to this year's roster. If a member dropped, e-mail to ask why. • Go through all the meetings (annual, regional) to determine who presented a forensic/fraud paper and contact them asking them to join, if not already a member.
<p>Retention: To maintain current members.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of existing members renewing • Survey results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey those that drop memberships. • Develop survey. • Recognition of long-standing members. • Break –down reasons why members leave section (retirement, etc.).
<p>Income Statement: To create an analysis of revenues and expenses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce an income statement for the section 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine what provides revenues to the organization. • Look for alternative sources of revenues. • Determine expenses.
<p>Mid-Year Meeting: To annually have a mid-year meeting that at minimum breaks even.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting break even or not 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit donations to fund event.

Internal Business Process “To satisfy our members what processes must we excel at internally?”

Objectives	Performance Metric	Initiatives
<p>Best Transcript: To award best transcript annually at regional meetings and at annual meetings: best FIA research paper, best FIA teaching innovation, and best FIA dissertation.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a Transcript Committee. • Develop transcript standards. • Make announcement. • Solicit nominations.
<p>Officer’s Manual: To develop a procedure manual for responsibilities of officers, trustees and members.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an adequate and effective operations manual. • Update the manual as required. • Send an e-mail to the section members each month. • Send out announcements to members of the FIA section to have them volunteer as a reviewer, moderator and/or discussant; and to submit papers and/or panel session proposals.
<p>Section Representative Manual: To develop a procedure manual for section representatives for regional meetings.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a committee of past section representatives develop a procedure manual for section representatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Selection of papers for regional meetings. ○ Paper awards for best paper at the section’s regional meetings.
<p>Litigation Support: To investigate and research litigation services required and utilized by the accounting profession, and educate and advise AAA members on such services.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have committee members join professional societies where litigation support is part of the mission of the society. • Present findings at mid-year meetings of the Forensic and Investigative Accounting (FIA) section of the AAA and/or annual meetings of the AAA. • Survey members of the FIA section regarding the topics covered in their forensic and investigative accounting courses. • Encourage members of the committee to conduct research and present findings at regional or national meetings of academic conferences. • Solicit members of the FIA section to collaborate with professionals to develop a series of cases for educational purposes. • Identify and request professionals to attend FIA mid-year meetings in order to discuss views and topics with academics.

Internal Business Process “To satisfy our members what processes must we excel at internally?” continued

Objectives	Performance Metric	Initiatives
Strategy: To prepare an annual strategic plan for the Forensic section to be presented at the annual meeting for approval.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask all committee chairs to create a mission statement, objectives and action steps for their committees. • Combine all the chairs information into a combined strategy. • Bring to a vote at the annual meeting.
By-law Updates: To change by-laws to conform with AAA’s changes.	Change bylaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the changes being suggested for the AAA by-laws. • Determine the need for changes to the Forensic Section’s by-laws due to the changes to the AAA by-laws. • Prepare changes and send to the membership for comments. • Finalize wording to the suggested changes to the by-laws. • Bring the by-laws suggested changes to a vote at the annual meeting.
CPE for Professionals: To develop CPE sessions that would interest professionals as well as academics.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a committee. • Find people to create and teach sessions.
Earnings Management: To study how executives manage earnings to have their organizations financial statements meet predetermined expectations.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create presentation and publication outlets for quality earnings management research.
SET Management: To study how/if professors try to manage student evaluations of teachers (SETs) resulting in grade inflation and coursework deflation.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create presentation and publication outlets for SET management research.
Fraud Investigation: To collect materials that are relevant to fraud investigation and useful for educational, curriculum development and research purposes and to document these materials in a virtual library that is published online using the FIA Section web site on the AAA Commons.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open a room on the web site to provide access to build the library. • Combine and categorize materials. • Identify individual to be responsible as a reliable contact to pass on the collected materials for publishing. • Invite the rest of the membership to contribute to the collected materials.

Internal Business Process “To satisfy our members, what processes must we excel at internally?” continued

Objectives	Performance Metric	Initiatives
<p>Nominations: To determine positions and accept nominations for vacated section officers.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine positions that will be vacated and actively solicit nominations from Section members via an email call for nominations and posting of same to the Section website no later than the end of January of each year; • Send a second call for nominations email prior to the close of nominations; • Accept nominations for open positions until the first Monday in March of each year; • Consider the qualifications and experience of the nominees, determine eligibility and willingness to serve in the nominated capacity, and put forth a slate of nominees to stand for election, consisting of at least 2 nominees for each open position, where possible, by April 1 of each year; • Oversee preparation of and administration of balloting conducted by staff of the AAA, to be concluded by the end of April; • Ascertain that results are certified by the Secretary of the section and announced to the membership within 1 month after the vote.
<p>Fraud in IFRS: To map out all IFRS standards and pinpoint those most susceptible to be exploited in fraudulent financial reporting scenarios. Compile findings in a format useable and accessible for educational, curriculum development and research purposes.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map out all relevant IFRS standards that are candidates for “flexible interpretations” by motivated CEOs, CFOs, and others. • Build out scenarios where such fraudulent financial reporting might occur, including implications for technology, U.S. GAAP equivalents, and presentation/concealment techniques. • Develop the tools and techniques to prevent, deter, and detect such “cooking the books” scenarios.

Learning and Innovation: “To achieve our vision, how will we sustain our ability to change and improve services for our members?”

Objectives	Performance Metric	Initiatives
<p>Newsletter: To create a quarterly or semiannual newsletter that will be sent to all AAA members – not just section members.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find someone to do the newsletter. • Develop guidelines for material inclusion. • Decide the format and editors for the materials, whether standing columns or special topics.
<p>Publications: Create a sectional journal that is recognized by the AAA.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey members about their views on having the sectional journal. The data collection of the survey is completed • The survey data can also be used to support the section having a section journal when we propose the sectional journal to AAA. • The next action is to look over the data and report to the section at the next sectional meeting. • Figure out how to fund the journal. • Create guidelines for new journal.

Customer “To meet our members’ needs, what must we provide our members?”

Objectives	Performance Metric	Initiatives
<p>National Meeting: To annually hold a mid-year meeting for the FIA.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set date for the meeting. • Obtain venue for meeting. • Have a call for papers. • Advertise the event. • Select papers for presentation. • Create a program.
<p>Syllabus Exchange: To gather and disseminate through the Section website syllabi used by educators in forensic and investigative accounting courses.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notify members that the Section desires to gather and disseminate syllabi used in forensic and investigative accounting courses. Notification can occur via the website, email and conference meetings. • Post syllabi at the Section website. Posting includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course level (undergraduate/graduate) • Course name (if not on the syllabus) • Topics covered (if not obvious from the course name) • Faculty name and affiliation (if not on the syllabus) • Whether the educator has additional course material willing to share or discuss with those who may contact him/her (i.e. lecture notes, problem sets, cases, assignments, etc.) • Follow-up on an annual basis by asking for updated syllabi and related information.
<p>Model Syllabus: To prepare and share a model syllabus for an undergraduate/graduate tax fraud class.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search the Internet for tax fraud course descriptions and syllabi at colleges and universities where tax fraud is offered or has been taught as a course (including law schools). • Search the Internet for law or accounting books that have been used or are being used in tax fraud courses. • Contact IRS agents from the civil and criminal divisions on course content and implementation advice. • Determine ways to best evaluate students in a tax fraud course • Make any model tax fraud course syllabi available through the FIA section website.