

SESSION 2: TEACHING AND CURRICULUM

DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

TIME: 1:45 – 3:15 PM

Another Look at the Scope of the Accounting Curriculum: What IT Concepts Should Be Targeted?

Randy M. Reed

University of Houston–Downtown

Diana Kay Pence

University of Houston–Downtown

ABSTRACT: The introduction of computers into the business environment added another dimension to the knowledge content needed by accountants. As computer technology has become more complex and pervasive, the need for accountants to have a more extensive knowledge of information technology (IT) has increased. The International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) addressed this matter by issuing International Education Guideline 11 (IEG 11) in 1995, which lists the IT components considered necessary for entry-level accountants. As technology changed, IFAC responded by updating IEG11 in 1999 and 2003 to incorporate the latest concepts.

An email survey of U.S. accounting information systems (AIS) professors was conducted to determine whether they believe the twelve components of IEG 11 are consistent with the IT knowledge necessary for entry-level accountants. The twelve components are IT Architecture, System Acquisition/Development, IT Management, IT Strategy, Business Process Enablement, IT Controls Knowledge, IT Controls Competency, User Role Competency, Manager Role, Designer Role, Evaluator Role, and Creating Alternative Competency. The findings of the study indicate a high degree of consensus for four components, moderate consensus for two components, marginal consensus for five components, and no consensus for one component. These findings indicate IT knowledge may need to be increased for entry-level accountants. Two alternative suggestions for accomplishing this objective are 1) adding a second AIS class or 2) integrating IT across the accounting curriculum.