

Lam Family College of Business
Journal Assessment Policy
Faculty voted in January 2022

AACSB's 2020 Guiding Principles and Standards for Business Accreditation (p. 53, section 8.1) asks that "the school has policies that guard against publishing in predatory journals." On (p. 54) it further asks that business schools should "describe the school's processes to identify high-quality research and scholarship, including a description of how the school guards against promoting publications in predatory journals." We rely primarily, but not exclusively, on widely accepted third party lists to safeguard against predatory journal publications. Per AACSB predatory journals and publishers are defined as "entities that prioritize self-interest at the expense of scholarship and/or are characterized by false or misleading information; deviation from best editorial and publication practices; a lack of transparency; and/or the use of aggressive and indiscriminate solicitation practices." (p. 51)

We recognize that new journals or journals focusing on narrow sub-fields may not be rated or rated highly by these widely accepted lists. This policy is not intended to discourage publications in such journals. However, if a colleague publishes in a peer-reviewed journal not rated by ABDC, AJG (formerly CABS), Web of Science {Science Citation Index or the Social Science Citation Index, or Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI) or Arts and Humanities Citation Index} the colleague will have to provide details about the quality of the journal and the rigor of the peer-reviewed process.

If a journal article appears in a journal rated in ABDC, or in the AJG (Formerly CABS list), or is indexed in either the Science Citation Index or Social Science Citation Index or Emerging Sources Citation Index or Arts and Humanities Citation Index, no further documentation is needed. If the faculty member publishes in a peer-reviewed journal not rated by ABDC, AJG/CABS, Science Citation Index or the Social Science Citation Index or Emerging Sources Citation Index or Arts and Humanities Citation Index, they will have to provide details about the quality of the journal and the rigor of the review process. In order to allow the college to assess the quality of a non-rated journal, the colleague must provide information about the journal such as its publisher, the characterization of the journal and its publisher,¹ impact factor if available, acceptance rate, years of operation, editorial board, and details about the subject matter and scope of the journal such as the academic disciplines or subjects covered by the journal. Colleagues are also free to provide information on any other lists on which these journals are indexed.

To demonstrate that the published work was subjected to a rigorous peer-review process, the colleague is expected to provide information such as the number of reviewers, rounds of reviews, the reviewers' comments and the author's correspondences with the reviewers and editors. The

¹ The characterization of a journal includes whether the journal is published in print and online, online only, open source, etc. For the publisher, the characterization is the publisher's affiliation such as academic association, university affiliated, private non-profit, private for-profit, etc.

faculty member may provide additional documentation to demonstrate the rigor of the review process.

Moreover, the faculty member needs to provide information about fees paid to the journal and publisher for submission, publication, open access, etc., if any. This policy is not intended to discourage publication in open access journals as well.

Articles that appear in journals which are not rated in the above-mentioned lists or for which a rigorous peer-review process cannot be demonstrated will not be recognized as PRJs for purposes of tenure and promotion, nor will they be considered in determining SA status for AACSB accreditation purposes.

Process: Articles published in journals not listed in ABDC, AJG, SSCI or SCI, ESCI, or AHCI will be vetted by Departments. Departments should establish a sound mechanism to ensure that these journals are properly, adequately assessed². Faculty authors should submit relevant documentation detailing the peer-review process to the RTP Committees and Department Chairs. Department RTP committees and department chairs are primary individuals responsible for vetting. They are responsible for reviewing the documentation provided by faculty members to ensure that the articles did go through a robust peer-review process. If necessary, RTP committee members and department chairs can seek additional information to supplement and validate the rigor of the journal's peer-review process. Chairs will at the time of annual validating of SA or PA status of faculty also inform the dean's office of any journals that were deemed acceptable after due vetting.

The Dean or Associate Dean may conduct additional vetting and may appoint an ad hoc committee of senior scholarly academically qualified faculty to cross-validate the journal. The *ad hoc* committee of 3-5 members is advisory in nature and may be limited to faculty from departments outside of that of the faculty member whose journal validation request is being reviewed (the committee will consult the RTP committee and the Chair of the department that has initiated a validation request for any inputs in the review process and is expected to discuss the journal in question with them). **When Shall Journal Vetting Take Place: A faculty member may request validation of a journal at any time if that journal is not included in any of the above-mentioned lists. Chairs are expected to validate journals during the annual vetting of faculty academic (SA/PA) status, which is usually from May to August of an academic year, or during annual probationary review of tenure-track faculty. The chair informs the dean's office of any journals that were vetted and the dean's office may choose to vet the journals in turn themselves or by using an ad hoc advisory committee.**

² (e.g., Journals indexed in EconLit and recognized by American Economic Association are considered to be acceptable list by the RTP committee of the Economics department. Such lists need to be cross-referenced with the lists identified in this document).

The Dean's office may consult with faculty from outside the college in the case of interdisciplinary publications (for e.g., psychology, computer science, or education). To avoid any appearance of conflict of interest, co-authors on a paper will be excluded from serving on the relevant ad hoc committee. If a journal meets the bar then those journals will be added to a college list of journals that have passed vetting so that for subsequent iterations Chairs and RTP committees do not have to review the said journal that has passed vetting.

This policy shall come into effect immediately upon the conclusion of a supportive faculty vote for assessment of AACSB SA and PA status. Departments are strongly encouraged to adopt the above policy for RTP purposes to ensure that the menace of predatory publishing does not find its way into our college and to avoid putting the problem of inadequate journal vetting to the dean's office without due diligence at the departmental level.