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An Analysis of Compliance of Accounting Information Systems in Nigeria and International Federation of Accountants' Education Standard

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ABSTRACT

This study empirically makes a comparison between International Federation of Accountants' (IFAC) International Education Guideline Number 2 on Information Technology in Accounting and Accounting Information Systems Education in South Western part of Nigeria. The study adopted a survey approach for which data were collected from University students of AIS from selected universities through questionnaire. Secondly, secondary data were collected in form of detailed AIS curricula from websites of universities and analyzed using tables. The study observed that AIS syllabi were not compliant with IFAC's education guideline for ten (10) topics that were Technological Infrastructure Intensive but were compliant for the remaining four (4) topics that required minimal or no technological infrastructure. It was also found out that the knowledge level reported by students matched the level of coverage for twelve (12) of fourteen (14) topics except for the last two where knowledge level was adequate despite inadequate coverage in the syllabus. It was also found that AIS syllabi in South Western Nigeria were consistent in topic integration for all universities tested. The major implication of the study is that AIS knowledge in Nigeria is only compliant with IFAC guideline for topics that are more theoretical than practical. The study therefore recommends that universities serve as facilitators of AIS education especially for topics which require heavy Technological Infrastructure and also partner with foreign universities and organizations in order to ensure compliance with accepted standard for AIS education.

Keywords: International Federation of Accountants, Accounting Information System, education, Guildlines, Syllabi, knowledge, Coverage.

1. Introduction

Accounting is challenged by major changes in the environment in which an accountant operates and one of such changes is the impact of evolving Information Technology (IT) on the profession. Accounting deals with services that provide information, therefore changes that affect how information is being received, analyzed and disseminated will have impact on the profession (Chen, Damtew, Banette & Mapp 2011). Dalci and Tanis (2011) assert that technological advances in information have enabled the use of computers to perform tasks and activities that have been previously performed.

The educational sector in any country is a major player in equipping graduates and professionals with the required technological skills. In Nigeria, there is an awareness of the need for technological proficiency in accounting. Therefore, the Nigerian university education system has included certain courses in the