

How Business Faculty are Changing

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ABSTRACT

The increasing utilization of part-time faculty in higher education is of major concern to many in the academe. Yet, one of the comments routinely tossed around business schools is that, unlike within the other areas of a university, little concern should be paid to the portion of part-time faculty utilized to teach undergraduate business courses. The rationale behind this line of thought follows from the perception that, unlike within the other academic schools, those individuals who teach on a part-time basis in business are business professionals who bring “real-world” expertise to the classroom. These specially classified part-time faculty members then should not be viewed as a cost-saving effort on the part of the school to staff lower-division classes with lesser trained faculty, but rather, business adjunct faculty represent an astute attempt by business schools to staff the classrooms with talent that could not typically be afforded. What is happening to the usage of part-time or adjunct faculty in business schools? Is part-time faculty utilization increasing in business schools? Using data from the 2004 and 1999 NSOPF, the authors look at changing in the composition of faculty within business schools and make the case that part-time faculty utilization is significantly increasing and that such increases cannot be justified on merely a usage of business professionals to teach basis.