## Module 2

## Introducing Financial Statements and Transaction Analysis

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Q2-1. An asset represents resources a company owns or controls. Assets are expected to provide future economic benefits. Assets arise from past events or transactions. A liability is an obligation that will require a future economic sacrifice. Equity is the difference between assets and liabilities. It represents the claims of the company's owners to its income and assets. The following are some examples of each:

Assets • Cash

- Receivables
- Inventories
- Plant, property and equipment (PPE)

Liabilities - Accounts payable

- Accrued liabilities
- Deferred revenue
- Notes payable
- Long-term debt

Equity • Contributed capital (common and preferred stock)

- Additional paid-in capital
- Retained earnings
- Accumulated other comprehensive income
- Treasury stock

Q2-2. A cost that creates an immediate benefit is reported on the income statement as an expense. A cost that creates a future benefit is added to the balance sheet as an asset (capitalized) and will be transferred to the income statement as the benefit is realized. For example, PPE creates a future benefit and the cost of the PPE is transferred to the income statement (as depreciation expense) over the life of the PPE.

Q2-3. Accrual accounting means that we record revenues when earned, and record expenses when they are incurred. Accrual accounting does not rely on cash flows in determining when items are revenues or expenses. This is why net income (a GAAP measure) differs from cash from operations.

Q2-4. Transitory items are revenues and expenses that are not expected to recur. One objective of financial analysis is to predict future performance. Given that perspective, transitory (nonrecurring) items are not relevant except to the extent that they convey information about future financial performance.

Q2-5. The statement of stockholders' equity provides information about the events that impact stockholders' equity during the period. It contains information relating to net income, stock sales and repurchases, option exercises, dividends and other accumulated comprehensive income.

Q2-6. The statement of cash flows reports the company's cash inflows and outflows during the period, and categorizes them according to operating, investing and financing activities. The income statement reports profit earned under accrual accounting, but does not provide sufficient information concerning cash flows. The statement of cash flows fills that void.

Q2-7. Articulation refers to the fact that the four financial statements are linked to each other and that changes in one statement affect the other three. For example, net income reported on the income statement is linked to the statement of retained earnings, which in turn is linked to the balance sheet. Understanding how the financial statements articulate helps us to analyze transactions and events and to understand how events affect each financial statement separately and all four together.

Q2-8. When a company purchases a machine it records the cost as an asset because it will provide future benefits. As the machine is used up, a portion of this cost is transferred from the balance sheet to the income statement as depreciation expense. The machine asset is, thus, reduced by the depreciation, and equity is reduced as the expense reduces net income and retained earnings. If the entire cost of the machine was immediately expensed, profit would be reduced considerably in the year the machine was purchased. Then, in subsequent years, net income would be far too high as none of the machine's cost would be reported in those years even though the machine produced revenues during that period.

Q2-9. An asset must be "owned" or "controlled," it must provide "future economic benefits," and it must arise from a past transaction or event. Owning means having title to the asset (some leased assets are also recorded on the balance sheet because they are controlled, as we will discuss in our Module 10 entitled, "Reporting and Analyzing Off-Balance-Sheet Financing"). Future benefits may mean the future inflows of cash, or an increase in another asset, or reduction of a liability. Past event means the company has purchased the asset or acquired it in some other cash or noncash transaction or event.

Q2-10. Liquidity refers to the ready availability of cash. That is, how much cash the company has on hand, how much cash is being generated, and how much cash can be raised quickly. Liquidity is essential to the survival of the business. After all, firms must pay loans and employee wages with cash.

Q2-11. Current means that the asset will be liquidated (converted to cash) or used in operations within the next year (or the operating cycle if longer than one year).

Q2-12. GAAP uses historical costs because they are less subjective than market values. Market values can be biased for two reasons: first, we may not be able to measure them accurately (consider our inability to accurately measure the market value of a manufacturing facility, for example), and second, managers may intervene in the reporting process to intentionally bias the results to achieve a particular objective (like enhancing the stock price).

Q2-13. Generally, excluded intangible (unrecorded) assets are those that contribute to a company's sustainable competitive advantage, but that cannot be measured accurately. Some examples include the value of a brand, the management of a company, employee morale, a strong supply chain, superior store locations, credibility with the financial markets, reputation, and so forth.

Q2-14. An intangible asset is an asset that is not physical in nature. To be included on the balance sheet, it has to meet two tests: the company must own or control the asset, it must provide future economic benefits, and the asset must arise from a past event or transaction. Some examples are goodwill, patents and trademarks, contractual agreements like royalties, leases, and franchise agreements. An intangible asset is only recorded on the balance sheet when it is purchased from an outside party. For example, goodwill arises when the company acquires (either with cash or stock) another company's brand name or any of the other intangibles listed above.

Q2-15. An accrued liability is an obligation for expenses that have been incurred but not yet paid for with cash. Examples include wages that have been earned by employees and not yet paid, interest owing on a bank loan, and potential future warranty claims for products sold to customers. When the liability is recognized on the balance sheet, a corresponding expense is recognized in the income statement.

Q2-16. Net working capital = current assets - current liabilities. Increasing the amount of trade credit (e.g., accounts payable to suppliers) increases current liabilities and reduces net working capital. Trade credit is like borrowing from a supplier to make purchases. As trade credit increases, the supplier is lending more money than before. This frees up cash, which the company can use for other purposes such as paying down interest-bearing debt or purchasing additional productive assets. Thus, net working capital decreases. This can be a good thing. As a business grows, its net working capital grows because inventories and receivables generally grow faster than accounts payable and accrued liabilities do. Net working capital must be financed just like long-term assets.

Q2-17. Book value is the amount at which an asset (or liability) is carried on the balance sheet. The book value of the company is the book value of all the assets less the book value of all the liabilities, that is, the book value of stockholders' equity. Book values are determined in accordance with GAAP. Market value is the sale price of an asset or liability. Markets are not constrained by GAAP standards and, therefore, can consider a number of factors that accountants cannot. Market values, therefore, generally differ significantly from book values.

Q2-18. The arrow running from net income to earned capital in the financial statement effects template denotes that retained earnings (part of earned capital) have been updated for the profit earned during the period. Retained earnings are reconciled as follows: beginning retained earnings + profit (- loss) - dividends = ending retained earnings. The line, thus, represents the profits that have been added (or the losses subtracted) to retained earnings (dividends are recorded as a direct reduction of retained earnings in the template).

## MINI EXERCISES

## M2-19. (15 minutes)

a. Income statement
b. Balance sheet
c. Income statement
d. Balance sheet
e. Income statement
f. Balance sheet
g. Income statement
h. Balance sheet
i. Income statement

## M2-20. (15 minutes)

a. Balance sheet
b. Income statement
c. Balance sheet
d. Income statement
e. Balance sheet
f. Balance sheet
g. Balance sheet
h. Balance sheet
i. Income statement
j. Income statement
k. Balance sheet
l. Balance sheet

## M2-21. (20 minutes)

a. Net income computation

Service revenue (record when earned) ................................ \$200,000
Wages expense (record when incurred, even if unpaid) ......... $\frac{(40,000)}{\$ 100,000}(\$ 25,000+\$ 15,000)$
Net income
$\$ 160,000$
b. Net cash flow computation

Cash inflow from services rendered
Cash outflow for wages paid $\$ 50,000(\$ 30,000+\$ 20,000)$

Net cash inflow $(25,000)$

Cash inflow from services rendered will be $\$ 150,000$ less than service revenue per the income statement because Penno only collected $\$ 50,000$ of revenues in cash but reported $\$ 200,000$ as revenue. Cash outflow for wages paid will be $\$ 15,000$ less than wages expense on the income statement because $\$ 15,000$ remained unpaid at year-end. The combined effects of these two items yields an overall difference of $\$ 135,000$ between net income and net cash inflow [ $\$ 160,000$ net income and $\$ 25,000$ net cash inflows].

## M2-22. (15 minutes)

a. A
e. L
b. L
c. E
d. A
f. E
g. E
h. L

M2-23. (10 minutes)

|  | 2012 | 2013 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Beginning retained earnings. | \$189,089 | \$ 169,634 |
| Add: Net income (loss) | $(19,455)$ | 48,192 |
| Less: Dividends. | 0 | $(15,060)$ |
| Ending retained earnings....................................... | \$169,634 | \$202,766 |

## M2-24. (10 minutes)

## JOHNSON \& JOHNSON <br> Statement of Retained Earnings

For Year Ended December 30, 2012
(\$ millions)
Retained earnings, January1, 2012..................................................... \$81,251
Add: Net earnings .......................................................................... 10,853
Add: Other retained earnings changes............................................ 502
Less: Dividends.............................................................................. (6,614)
Retained earnings, December 30, 2012
\$85,992

M2-25. (15 minutes)

|  | 2012 | 2013 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Revenues | \$350,000 | \$ 0 |
| Expenses | 225,000 | 0 |
| Net income.............................................................. | \$125,000 | \$0 |

Explanation: All of the revenue is reported in 2012 when it is earned-per the revenue recognition principle. Likewise, the wages expense is reported in 2012 when it is incurred, that is when the liability to pay the wages arises. The receipt or payment of cash does not affect the recording of revenues, expenses, and net income. There are no revenues or expenses in 2013.

## M2-26. (15 minutes)



## EXERCISES

## E2-27. (20 minutes)



## E2-28. (15 minutes)

| BAIMAN CORPORATION |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Income Statement |  |
| For Month Ended January 31 |  |
| Sales .................................... | $\$ 40,000$ |
| Wage expense ................. | $\underline{12,000}$ |
| Net income (loss) ................ | $\underline{\$ 28,000}$ |


| BAIMAN CORPORATION Balance Sheet January 31 |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Cash | \$ 0 |
| Accounts receivable | 40,000 |
| Total assets. | \$40,000 |
| Wages payable | \$12,000 |
| Retained earnings | 28,000 |
| Total liabilities and equity | \$40,000 |

E2-29. (30 minutes)


## E2-30. (15 minutes)



## E2-30.concluded



## E2-31. (15 minutes)

a. Staples, Inc. (\$ millions)

|  | Amount | Classification |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sales. | \$24,381 | 1 |
| Accumulated depreciation. | 4,067 | B |
| Depreciation expense | 408 | 1 |
| Retained earnings..................................................... | 6,694 | B |
| Net income (loss) | (211) | 1 |
| Property, plant and equipment, net ............................... | 6,030 | B |
| Selling, general and admin expense .............................. | 4,884 | 1 |
| Accounts receivable. | 1,816 | B |
| Total liabilities | 6,144 | B |
| Stockholders' equity ..................................................... | 6,136 | B |

b. Total Assets $=$ Total Liabilities + Stockholders' Equity

Total Assets $=\$ 6,144$ million $+\$ 6,136$ million $=\$ 12,280$ million
Sales - Total Expenses $=$ Net Income
\$24,381 million - Total Expenses = \$(211) million
Thus, Total Expenses $=\underline{\$ 24,592 \text { million }}$
c. Net Profit Margin $=$ Net loss/Sales $=\$(211)$ million $/ \$ 24,381$ million

Net Profit Margin $=\underline{(0.87) \%}$

Total Liabilities-to-Equity Ratio = Total Liabilities/Stockholders' Equity
Total Liabilities-to-Equity Ratio $=\$ 6,144$ million $/ \$ 6,136$ million $=\underline{\underline{1.00}}$

## E2-32. (15 minutes)

a. Target Corp (\$ millions)
$\underline{\text { Amount }}$
Total revenues \$ 71,960

## Classification <br> B

Accumulated depreciation 13,311
Depreciation and amortization expense........................ 2,142
Retained earnings ......................................................... 13,155
Net income.................................................................. 2,999
Property, plant \& equipment ........................................ 30,653
Selling, general \& admin expense ................................ 14,914
Credit card receivables................................................. 5,841
Total liabilities............................................................... 31,605
Stockholders' equity ..................................................... 16,558
b. Total Assets = Total Liabilities + Stockholders' Equity

Total Assets $=\$ 31,605$ million $+\$ 16,558$ million $=\$ 48,163$ million
Total Revenue - Total Expenses = Net Income
$\$ 71,960$ million - Total Expenses $=\$ 2,999$ million
Thus, Total Expenses $=\$ 68,961$ million
c. Net Profit Margin $=$ Net income / Sales Net Profit Margin $=\$ 2,999$ million $/ \$ 71,960$ million $=\underline{\underline{4.17 \%}}$

Total Liabilities-to-Equity Ratio = Total Liabilities / Stockholders' Equity Total Liabilities-to-Equity Ratio $=\$ 31,605$ million $/ \$ 16,558$ million= $\underline{\underline{1.91}}$

## E2-33. (15 minutes)

a.

| (\$ millions) | ANF |  | TJX |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sales | \$4,511 |  | \$25,878 |  |
| Cost of goods sold................... | 1,694 | 37.6\% | 18,521 | 71.6\% |
| Gross profit............................ | 2,817 | 62.4\% | 7,357 | 28.4\% |
| Total expenses ........................ | 2,580 | 57.2\% | 5,450 | 21.1\% |
| Net income.. | \$ 237 | 5.3\%* | \$ 1,907 | 7.4\%* |
| *percentages do not add due to rounding |  |  |  |  |

ANF is a high-end retailer and TJX operates in the value-priced segment of the market. Their respective business models are clearly evident in the gross profit margin. ANF's gross profit margin is more than twice that of TJX ( $62.4 \%$ compared to $28.4 \%$ ). This implies that ANF adds a healthy markup to determine their merchandise sales price. The high-end segment also requires additional personnel, advertising, and other operating costs. ANF's expense margin is nearly three times higher ( $57.2 \%$ compared to $21.1 \%$ ). On balance, TJX is bringing down to the bottom line a greater percentage of each sales dollar than is ANF ( $7.4 \%$ vs. $5.3 \%$ ). In this year, TJX's business model appears to be more profitable than ANF's.
b.

| (\$ millions) | ANF |  | TJX |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Current assets | \$ 1,308 | 43.8\% | \$ 5,712 | 60.1\% |
| Long-term assets...................... | 1,679 | 56.2\% | 3,800 | 39.9\% |
| Total assets | \$2,987 |  | \$9,512 |  |
| Current liabilities..................... | \$ 691 | 23.1\% | \$ 3,761 | 39.5\% |
| Long-term liabilities................... | $\underline{478}$ | 16.0\% | 2,085 | 21.9\% |
| Total liabilities. | 1,169 | 39.1\% | 5,846 | 61.5\% |
| Stockholders' equity ................. | 1,818 | 60.9\% | 3,666 | 38.5\% |
| Total liab. and equity ................ | \$2,987 |  | \$9,512 |  |

ANF has lower levels of current assets relative to total assets than does TJX. For clothing retailers, current assets are primarily cash and inventories. If the two companies have about the same levels of cash, we would conclude that ANF holds less inventory. This makes sense given that TJX has discount-type stores chock-full of merchandise.
c. ANF has a much greater proportion of stockholders' equity in its capital structure (60.9\% compared to $38.5 \%$ at TJX). This means that TJX relies more on debt to fund its operations than ANF. This is evident in both a higher percentage of current and long-term liabilities as a percent of total assets. Current liabilities are typically non-interest bearing and selfliquidating (for example, paid from the cash from inventory sales). Long-term debt, however, is typically interest bearing and requires periodic payments of interest and principal. The debt payment requirements add an element of risk and we might conclude that TJX is a slightly riskier company.

## E2-34. (15 minutes)

a.

| (\$ millions) | AAPL |  | DELL |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sales | \$156,508 |  | \$56,940 |  |
| COGS.............................. | 87,846 | 56.1\% | 44,754 | 78.6\% |
| Gross profit........................ | 68,662 | 43.9\% | 12,186 | 21.4\% |
| Total expenses ..................... | 26,929 | 17.2\% | 9,814 | 17.2\% |
| Net income ........................ | \$41,733 | 26.7\% | \$2,372 | 4.2\% |

AAPL's gross profit margin is more than double DELL's (43.9\% compared to 21.4\%). This is likely due to two factors: first, a large proportion of AAPL's sales relate to the iPod, iPhone, and iPad which are all very high-margin products because they are premium priced. Second, DELL competes as the low-price leader in the PC-sales segment.
b.

| (\$ millions) | AAPL |  | DELL |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Current assets | \$57,653 | 32.7\% | \$27,968 | 58.8\% |
| Long-term assets.................... | 118,411 | 67.3\% | 19,572 | 41.2\% |
| Total assets ......................... | \$176,064 |  | \$47,540 |  |
| Current liabilities.. | \$38,542 | 21.9\% | \$23,439 | 49.3\% |
| Long-term liabilities................. | 19,312 | 11.0\% | 13,400 | 28.2\% |
| Total liabilities ....................... | 57,854 | 32.9\% | 36,839 | 77.5\% |
| Stockholders' equity ............... | 118,210 | 67.1\% | 10,701 | 22.5\% |
| Total liab. and equity .............. | \$176,064 |  | \$47,540 |  |

AAPL has a greater proportion of stockholders' equity in its capital structure. Neither of these companies carries a large percentage of long-term liabilities. A greater proportion of debt is generally viewed as a riskier capital structure. However, Dell's relatively high level of short-term debt arises from the fact that the company relies very heavily on supplier financing. Dell is an important customer for many of its suppliers, which gives Dell bargaining power over suppliers with respect to credit terms. Dell's high level of profitability also lessens any concerns one might have regarding its solvency. Apple's equity growth has been relatively recent, resulting from the meteoric rise of the highly profitable iPods, iPhones, and iPads. Unless the company has need for capital, it might come under pressure from shareholders, to pay some of its accumulated cash out to shareholders in the form of a dividend or stock repurchase.

## E2-35. (15 minutes)

a.

| (\$ millions) | CMCSA |  | VZ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sales ........ | \$62,570 |  | \$115,846 |  |
| Operating costs ......................... | 50,391 | 80.5\% | 102,686 | 88.6\% |
| Operating profit......................... | 12,179 | 19.5\% | 13,160 | 11.4\% |
| Nonoperating expenses.............. | 5,976 | 9.6\% | 2,603 | 2.2\% |
| Net income ................................ | \$6,203 | 9.9\% | \$10,557 | 9.1\%* |
| *percentages do not add due to rounding |  |  |  |  |

Comcast's product lines yield considerably more operating profit margin than do Verizon's. Its nonoperating expense, however, is higher than Verizon's. Comcast's higher operating profit margin is enough to yield a net profit margin that is higher than Verizon's.
b.

| (\$ millions) | CMCSA |  | VZ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Current assets | \$19,991 | 12.1\% | \$21,235 | 9.4\% |
| Long-term assets. | 144,980 | 87.9\% | 203,987 | 90.6\% |
| Total assets. | \$164,971 |  | \$225,222 |  |
| Current liabilities | \$16,714 | 10.1\% | \$26,956 | 12.0\% |
| Long-term liabilities. | 98,461 | 59.7\% | 112,733 | 50.1\% |
| Total liabilities. | 115,175 | 69.8\% | 139,689 | 62.0\%* |
| Stockholders' equity .................... | 49,796 | 30.2\% | 85,533 | 38.0\% |
| Total liabilities and equity.............. | \$164,971 |  | \$225,222 |  |

*percentages don't add due to rounding
Both companies are highly capital intensive, with about $90 \%$ of their assets in the long-term category. Both companies' business models necessitate continued investment in long-term assets as they seek to continue to develop their infrastructure.
c. The two companies have relatively high debt loads, which makes them risky compared to other industrial companies. Given the large level of capital expenditures (CAPEX) that the companies will make over the next decade, and the amount of additional debt that they will have to incur to fund CAPEX, the debt levels will be a continuing financial issue for both companies.

## E2-36. (30 minutes)

a.

| (\$ millions) | TJX |  | AAPL |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sales | \$25,878 |  | \$156,508 |  |
| COGS. | 18,521 | 71.6\% | 87,846 | 56.1\% |
| Gross profit. | 7,357 | 28.4\% | 68,662 | 43.9\% |
| Total expenses | 5,450 | 21.1\% | 26,929 | 17.2\% |
| Net income. | \$1,907 | 7.4\%* | \$41,733 | 26.7\% |

TJX is a value-priced clothing retailer whose main expense is cost of sales. AAPL's products are well differentiated and patent-protected. The difference in their respective business models is clearly evident in the level of gross profit. AAPL's gross profit margin is over $50 \%$ greater than TJX's. This does not imply that AAPL is a better-managed company. Much of the difference in operating percentages between companies in different industries is related to differences in their respective business models. AAPL net income as a percentage of sales is more than 3.6X than that of TJX. On this dimension, AAPL's business model appears to be more profitable.
b.

| (\$ millions) | TJX | AAPL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sales .......................................... | \$25,878 | \$156,508 |
| Total assets. | \$9,512 | \$176,064 |
| Sales / Total assets ..................... | 2.72 | 0.89 |

TJX's sales are almost three times its total assets. AAPL's sales are less than its total assets. It might be tempting, therefore, to conclude that AAPL is more capital intensive than TJX. Over one-third of AAPL's total assets, however, consist of cash and investments in marketable securities. This level of liquidity increases total assets, which depresses the asset turnover ratio.
c.

| (\$ millions) | TJX | AAPL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total liabilities | \$5,846 | \$57,854 |
| Stockholders' equity . | 3,666 | 118,210 |
| Total liabilities / Stockholders' equity . | 1.59 | 0.49 |

TJX operates with much more debt relative to equity than does AAPL. Companies with higher proportions of debt are generally viewed as riskier because failure to make required debt payments can have significant negative consequences.
d.

| (\$ millions) | TJX | AAPL |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Net income | \$1,907 | \$41,733 |
| Stockholders' equity | 3,666 | 118,210 |
| Net income / Stockholders' equity.......................... | 52.0\% | 35.3\% |

TJX's net income to stockholders' equity ratio (ROE) is almost 1.5 times greater than AAPL's. Although TJX's profit per sales dollar is only $7.4 \%$, far less than AAPL's $26.7 \%$, its sales-toassets ratio more than offsets the difference. TJX relies on asset productivity to drive its returns, and appears to be succeeding on that dimension. It is important to keep in mind, however, that APPL's net income to equity ratio is depressed by the relatively low yields on marketable securities and could be increased significantly if some of that liquidity were to be returned to shareholders as a dividend or stock buyback.

## E2-37. (20 minutes)



## E2-37.concluded



## PROBLEMS

## P2-38. (30 minutes)

a. (\$ millions)

|  | Current Assets | Longterm Assets | Total Assets | Current <br> Liabilities | Longterm Liabilities | Total Liabilities | Stockholders' Equity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2010 | \$12,215 | \$17,941 | \$30,156 | \$6,089 | \$8,050 | \$14,139 | \$16,017 |
| 2011 | 12,240 | 19,376 | 31,616 | 5,441 | 10,313 | 15,754 | 15,862 |
| 2012 | 13,630 | 20,246 | 33,876 | 6,200 | 9,636 | 15,836 | 18,040 |

b. 3M's current assets most likely include cash, accounts receivable, inventories, and prepaid assets.

Its long-term assets most likely include property, plant and equipment (PPE), goodwill, and other intangible assets that have arisen from acquisitions.

## P2-39. (30 minutes)

a.

|  | Balance Sheet |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Income-Statement |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Transaction | Cash Asset | + | Noncash Assets | = | Liabilities | + | Contrib. Capital | + | Earned Capital | Revenues | - | Expenses | $=$ | Net Income |
| Beginning bal. | 0 |  | 0 | = | 0 |  | 0 |  | 0 |  | - |  | = |  |



## P2-39.continued

|  | Balance Sheet |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Income Statement |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Transaction | Cash <br> Asset | + | Noncash Assets | = | Liabilities | $+$ | Contrib. Capital | + | Earned Capital | Revenues |  | Expen-ses | = | Net Income |

PPE, net95,000

| INV | 40,000 |
| :---: | ---: |
| Cash | 95,000 |
| AP | 40,000 |

$\frac{\text { PPE, net }}{95,000}$


| Cash | 50,000 |
| :---: | :---: |
| COGS | 30,000 |
| Sales | 50,000 |
| INV | 30,000 |


| 2. Sefcik purchased <br> equipment for | $-95,000$ <br> Cash | $+95,000$ <br> PPE, net |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 95,000$ cash and <br> inventory of |  | $=$ |  |
| $\$ 40,000$ on credit |  | $+40,000$ | $+40,000$ <br> Accounts <br> Inventory |
|  |  | Payable |  |


| CASH |
| :---: |
| 50,000 |
| COGS |
| 30,000 |


3. Sefcik Co. sold inventory costing
$\$ 30,000$ for


| INV |  |
| :--- | ---: |
|  | 30,000 |
| WE 12,000 |  |
| Cash 12,000 |  |


4. Sefcik Co. paid $\$ 12,000$ cash for wages owed employees for October work

IE 1,000
Cash 1,000

5. Sefcik Co. paid interest on the bank loan of \$1,000 cash
-1,000 Cash
-12,000 Retained Earnings

| $-1,000$ | $+1,000$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Retained | Interest |  |
| Earnings |  | Expense |

## P2-39.concluded


b.

|  | SEFCIK CO. Income Statement For Month of October |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sales revenue | . | \$50,000 |
| Total expenses |  | 43,500 |
| Net income ... | ........ | \$ 6,500 |


| SEFCIK CO. <br> Retained Earnings Reconciliation For Month of October |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Retained earnings, October 1 |  | \$ 0 |
| Add: Net income |  | 6,500 |
| Less: Dividends. |  | $(2,000)$ |
| Retained earnings, October 31. | .................. | \$ 4,500 |
| SEFCIK CO. Balance Sheet October 31 |  |  |
| Cash............................ \$ 90,000 | Liabilities .................................... | \$140,000 |
| Noncash assets.............. 104,500 |  |  |
|  | Contributed capital....................... | 50,000 |
|  | Retained earnings........................ | 4,500 |
|  | Total equity ....... | 54,500 |
| Total assets ................... \$194,500 | Total liabilities and equity ... | \$194,500 |

P2-40. (30 minutes)


## P2-40.continued



P2-40. (continued)


## P2-40.concluded

|  | Transaction | Balance Sheet |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Income Statement |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Cash Asset | + | Noncash Assets | = | Liabilities | + | Contrib. Capital | + | Earned Capital | Revenues | - | Expen -ses |  | Net Income |
|   <br> Cash  <br> UR 8,000 <br> 8,000  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cash | 10. The company receive $\$ 8,000$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8,000 | cash in advance for services to be | $\begin{gathered} +8,000 \\ \text { Cash } \end{gathered}$ |  |  | = | +8,000 <br> Unearned Revenue |  |  |  |  |  | - |  | $=$ |  |
| UR | delivered next |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 8,000 | period |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## P2-41. (30 minutes)

a.

| Company | Gross Profit / Sales |  | Net Income/ Equity | Liabilities/ Equity |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Target............................ | 31.0\% | 4.1\% | 18.1\% | 1.91 |
| Nike............................... | 43.6\% | 9.8\% | 22.3\% | 0.58 |
| Harley-Davidson.............. | 42.3\% | 11.2\% | 24.4\% | 2.59 |
| Cisco Systems................ | 60.6\% | 20.5\% | 16.9\% | 0.71 |

b. Companies generally realize higher gross profit margins if there is some limit on competition, such as a barrier to entry. This barrier to entry can be legal in nature such as that afforded by a patent; or operational, such as that created by strong brand identity. Cisco, Nike and Harley all enjoy above-average gross profit margins. Cisco is a technology company that benefits from patents on desirable technology. Nike and Harley have strong and valuable brands. Nike relies on its advertising campaigns while Harley enjoys its cult following. Target, while a strong brand, sells goods that are difficult to differentiate and the company cannot command the pricing power that the other three companies enjoy.

Net profit margin (Net income / Sales) is a function of both gross profit margin and expense control. Cisco's, Harley's and Nike's net profit margins are the highest of the companies in this sample, resulting from their high gross profit margin and excellent expense control. Nike's net profit margin is curtailed, to some extent, by the significant operating expenses that reduce its net income. Target's net profit margin is only average for publicly-traded companies, reflecting the lack of product differentiation and significant advertising expense.
c. Harley enjoys the highest return on equity (measured as net income to equity), followed by Nike.Harley and Nike are premium brands that have effectively differentiated their products and can, therefore, enjoy above-average returns on stockholder investment.
d. Target and Harley have the highest proportion of debt in their capital structures mostly because of Target's proprietary credit card and Harley-Davidson Financial Services (its loan and lease financing subsidiary). The balance sheets and income statements of financial operations are similar to that of a bank - high debt levels and relatively low margins. Both companies consolidate their financial operations with those of the operating company. This inflates their consolidated debt level above what we typically observe for stand-alone retail and manufacturing operations. Finally, companies that enjoy relatively stable cash flows can afford higher debt levels because there is some assurance that future cash flows will be sufficient to cover fixed debt payments. The other two companies operate with a greater proportion of equity than of debt.

## P2-42. (30 minutes)

a.

| Company | Net Income / Sales | Rank |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Macy's | $4.8 \%$ | 2 |
| Home Depot, Inc. | $6.1 \%$ | 1 |
| Staples, Inc. | $(0.9) \%$ | 5 |
| Target Corp. | $4.1 \%$ | 3 |
| Wal-Mart Stores | $3.6 \%$ | 4 |

Home Depot, Macy's, and Target report the highest net profit margins. These companies have succeeded at effectively differentiating their brands and/or controlling their costs. WalMart and Staples operate in highly competitive markets with undifferentiated product lines.
b.

| Company | Operating Cash Flow / Sales | Rank |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Macy's | $8.2 \%$ | 2 |
| Home Depot, Inc. | $9.3 \%$ | 1 |
| Staples, Inc. | $5.0 \%$ | 5 |
| Target Corp. | $7.3 \%$ | 3 |
| Wal-Mart Stores | $5.5 \%$ | 4 |

Home Depot, Macy's, and Target report the highest level of operating cash flow as a percentage of sales. These are very efficient operations. Wal-Mart and Staples are not as effective on this dimension. The ranking for this ratio are exactly the same as for the net profit margins.
c.

| Company | Investing Cash Flow / Sales | Rank |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Macy's | $(3.1) \%$ | 4 |
| Home Depot Inc. | $(1.9) \%$ | 2 |
| Staples Inc. | $(1.4) \%$ | 1 |
| Target Corp. | $(3.9) \%$ | 5 |
| Wal-Mart Stores | $(2.7) \%$ | 3 |

Investing cash flows are typically negative (cash outflow), representing the purchase of PPE. The companies' rankings here, do not correspond with their rankings in partsa and b.The company with the lowest net profit margin, Staples, had the best investing cash flow margin, signifying they spent the least on purchasing assets.
d. Negative cash flows from financing activities can occur for three reasons: net debt repayments in excess of new borrowings, stock repurchases (in excess of stock sales), and dividend payments. Companies typically do not reduce debt unless their debt levels are uncomfortably high or the company has excess cash or marketable securities. Companies repurchase their stock to 1) signal to the market that the company believes its stock is undervalued,2) return capital to shareholders in a tax-advantaged way (for example, if the tax rates on capital gains are less than those on dividends), or 3) honor employee stock option exercises. Not all companies pay dividends so this is not as common as the first two reasons for negative financing cash flows.

## P2-43. (40 minutes)

a. Depreciation is added back to undo the effect it had on the income statement. Wal-Mart deducted $\$ 8,501$ million of depreciation (and amortization) expense in computing net income. Depreciation is a noncash expense so Wal-Mart did not actually use $\$ 8,501$ million of cash to pay depreciation expense. Thus, to determine how much cash was generated, net income is too low by the depreciation amount of $\$ 8,501$ million. The depreciation add-back is NOT a source of cash as some mistakenly believe. Cash is, ultimately, generated by profitable operations, not by depreciation.
b. Revenue is recognized, and profit increased, when it is earned, whether or not cash is received. Sales on account, therefore, increase profit, and the deduction for the increase in receivables reflects the fact that cash has not yet been received.

The negative sign on the increase in inventories reflects the outflow of cash when inventories are purchased. Inventories are typically purchased on account. As a result, payment is not made when the inventories are purchased. The positive sign on the increase in accounts payable offsets a portion of the negative sign on the inventory increase, and the net amount represents the net cash paid for the increase in inventories. Accounts payable are typically noninterest bearing, thus providing a cheap and important source of cash.

Accruals relate to expenses that have been recognized in the income statement that have not yet been paid. An increase in accrued liabilities means that cash paid out for expenses during the year was less than the expenses recognized in the income statement. Therefore, an increase in accrued expenses is shown as a cash inflow.
c. Companies must continue to invest in their infrastructure, both for new additions and replacement, to remain competitive. Depreciation expense represents the using up of depreciable assets. In general, we should expect capital expenditures (CAPEX) to exceed depreciation expense. This indicates that the company is growing its infrastructure as well as replacing the portion that is wearing out.
d. If Wal-Mart can make a better return on reinvesting its cash back into the business than the return shareholders can earn for themselves on the cash they would receive, Wal-Mart should forgo paying dividends or repurchasing shares. Many companies with large cash inflows, especially mature companies in relatively saturated markets, find it hard to uncover additional investment opportunities. In those cases, returning the cash to investors is better than investing it in marketable securities, because investors can do that for themselves.
e. Wal-Mart is a large, mature, and profitable company. In fiscal 2013, the company generated $44 \%$ more operating cash flows than reported profits; $\$ 25,591$ million of operating cash flow compared to $\$ 17,756$ million in net income. It funds capital expenditures for new stores and remodels with operating cash flows with no need for external financing. In the financing area, the company is borrowing to repurchase stock and to pay dividends, a substitution of lower-cost debt for higher-cost equity. This is a typical profile for a large, well-capitalized company like WalMart. In sum, Wal-Mart is exceptionally strong, and the company will likely continue investing in its infrastructure.

## P2-44. (40 minutes)

a. Depreciation is added back to undo the effect it had on the income statement. Verizon deducted $\$ 16,460$ million of depreciation expense in computing net income. Depreciation is a noncash expense so Verizon did not actually use $\$ 16,460$ million cash to pay depreciation. Thus, to determine how much cash was generated, net income is too low by the depreciation amount of $\$ 16,460$ million. The depreciation add-back is NOT a source of cash as some mistakenly believe. Cash is, ultimately, generated by profitable operations, not by depreciation.

The relative size of the add-back indicates that the company is extremely capital intensive. The add-back is $50 \%$ larger than net income itself.
b. The MD\&A section of the $10-\mathrm{K}$ provides management's assessment of the operating results and investment activities of the company. Because it is regulated by SEC disclosure rules, the $10-\mathrm{K}$ is a source of useful information that includes less promotional material than other statements by the company.

Companies must continue to invest in their infrastructure, both for new additions and replacement, to remain competitive. Depreciation expense represents the using up of depreciable assets. In general, we should expect capital expenditures (CAPEX) to exceed depreciation expense. This indicates that the company is growing its infrastructure as well as replacing the portion that is wearing out. Verizon's CAPEX is slightly lower than depreciation. The company appears to be just replacing depreciated assets and not making new additions to its infrastructure.
c. Verizon's high debt load places severe demands on its operating cash flow. Cash that should be used to develop its infrastructure must be allocated to the payment of debt. This is particularly problematic for Verizon as it is facing stiff competition from rival Comcast and must make substantial capital investments to remain competitive.
d. Unlike debt, dividends are not a contractual obligation until declared by the board of directors. Although stock price may fall if the company reduces dividends, shareholders cannot force the company into bankruptcy like debt holders can. Nevertheless, high dividend-paying companies, such as Verizon, typically continue their dividend payout even if they must borrow funds to do so as failure to maintain dividend payment levels would depress the market price of the company stock and increase the cost of equity capital should the company need to use its stock to raise capital or acquire another company.
e. Verizon's operations generated a significant amount of cash. Its capital expenditures are significant as the company continues to replace depreciating assets. High capital outlays would, ordinarily, not be a problem were it not for the company's significant existing debt load. Verizon's debt repayment for 2012 was $\$ 6,403$ million for long-term debt and an additional $\$ 1,437$ million for short-term debt. In addition, the company paid interest expense that is recorded in its income statement. Although the company is financially strong, balancing its debt level with the cash flow needs for capital expenditures to support its operating activities and dividends to support its stock price is a difficult challenge facing the company.

## P2-45. (25 minutes)



## P2-45.continued



| Ending Balances | 98,000 | 100,500 | $=96,000$ | 100,000 | 2,500 | $100,000-97,500$ | $=$ | 2,500 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

* PPE, net $=$ Equipment, gross less Accumulated Depreciation.


## P2-45.concluded

b.

| ANIFOODS, INC. Income Statement For Month Ended March 31 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sales | Form | \$100,000 |
| Cost of goods sold. |  | $(70,000)$ |
| Gross profit. |  | 30,000 |
| Advertising expense |  | $(7,500)$ |
| Wages expense. |  | $(18,000)$ |
| Depreciation expense | .... | $(2,000)$ |
| Net income . | ....... | \$ 2,500 |


| ANIFOODS, INC. Balance Sheet March 31 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash............................... | \$98,000 | Wages payable | \$ 1,000 |
| Accounts receivable ........... | 40,000 | Note payable (to owner) .............. | 55,000 |
| Inventory .......................... | 10,000 | Note payable (to vendor)............. | 40,000 |
| Prepaid advertising............. | 2,500 | Total liabilities | 96,000 |
| Equipment, gross............... | 50,000 |  |  |
| Less: Accum depreciation.... | $(2,000)$ | Common stock.......................... | 100,000 |
| Equipment, net ................... | 48,000 | Retained earnings...................... | 2,500 |
| Total assets ....................... | \$198,500 | Total liabilities and equity ............ | \$198,500 |

## P2-46.



## P2-46.continued



## P2-46. (concluded)

b.

| HANLON ADVERTISING COMPANY Income Statement For Current Month |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sales revenue |  | \$12,500 |
| Total expenses. |  | 3,500 |
| Net income..... |  | \$ 9,000 |


| HANLON ADVERTISING COMPANY Retained Earnings Reconciliation For Current Month |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Retained earnings, beginning of month | \$ 35,000 |
| Add Net income. | 9,000 |
| Less: Dividends. | (500) |
| Retained earnings, end of month | \$43,500 |


| HANLON ADVERTISING COMPANY <br> Balance Sheet Month-End |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash.. | \$ 70,800 | Liabilities..................................... | \$ 66,600 |
| Noncash assets............ | 149,300 |  |  |
|  |  | Contributed capital........................ | 110,000 |
|  |  | Retained earnings ........................ | 43,500 |
|  |  | Total equity ................................. | 153,500 |
| Total assets................... | \$220,100 | Total liabilities and equity................ | \$220,100 |

## P2-47.(20 minutes)

a.

| Operating activities |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Net income |  | \$130,000 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to operating cash flow |  |  |
| Depreciation | \$28,000 |  |
| Accounts receivable increase | $(10,000)$ |  |
| Prepaid expense decrease | 3,000 |  |
| Accounts payable increase | 6,000 |  |
| Wages payable decrease | $(4,000)$ | 23,000 |
| Net cash provided from operating activities . |  | \$153,000 |

b. No, the positive sign on depreciation expense does not mean that Petroni Company is generating cash by recording depreciation. The depreciation add-back undoes the noncash depreciation expense that is included in the computation of net income. Cash is generated from sales and profitable operations and not from depreciation expense.
c. The increase in accounts receivable relates to sales on credit. Because Petroni Company uses GAAP, the company recognizes revenues when "earned," even if no cash is received. These credit sales are included in net income even though no cash has been received from the sale. That means that net income is higher than cash from operations. Subtracting the increase in receivables offsets the noncash sales included in net income.
d. Prepaid expenses arise when a company pays out cash in advance of incurring the expense. An example is the payment for radio or TV advertising that is not aired in the current period. When paid, the company records the decrease in cash and also records an asset, prepaid advertising. When the ads are aired, the prepaid advertising account is reduced and an expense is recognized even though no cash was paid in the period the ads aired. The effect is that net income is lower (by the advertising expense) than cash from operations. To reconcile the two, the company needs to add back the decrease in the prepaid expense asset.

P2-48. (20 minutes)
a.


## P2-48.continued



## P2-48.continued



## P2-48.concluded

b.

| WERNER REALTY COMPANY Income Statement For Current Month |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sales revenue |  | \$ 25,000 |
| Total expenses |  | 17,000 |
| Net income ..... |  | \$ 8,000 |

## WERNER REALTY COMPANY Retained Earnings Reconciliation For Current Month

Retained earnings, beginning of month \$120,000
Add: Net income............................................................................................. 8,000
Less: Dividends
Retained earnings, end of month
\$128,000

| WERNER REALTY COMPANY Balance Sheet Current Month-End |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash........................... | \$ 51,000 | Liabilities .................................... | \$104,000 |
| Noncash assets............. | 226,000 |  |  |
|  |  | Contributed capital ....................... | 45,000 |
|  |  | Retained earnings........................ | 128,000 |
|  |  | Total equity ................................ | 173,000 |
| Total assets .................. | \$277,000 | Total liabilities and equity ............... | \$277,000 |

## IFRS ASSIGNMENTS

## I 2-49 (15 minutes)

a.

| Income Statement | Tesco <br> February 23, 2013 |  | Ahold December 30, 2012 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | £millions | \% | €millions | \% |
| Sales | £64,826 | 100.0\% | $€ 32,841$ | 100.0\% |
| Cost of goods sold | 60,737 | 93.7\% | 24,317 | 74.0\% |
| Gross profit | 4,089 | 6.3\% | 8,524 | 26.0\% |
| Total expenses | 3,969 | 6.1\% | 7,697 | 23.4\% |
| Net income | £ 120 | 0.2\% | $€ 827$ | 2.5\%* |

Ahold's gross profit margin (26.0\%) is over fourtimes that of Tesco (6.3\%) due to their relatively low cost of goods sold. But the opposite pattern holds for the total expenses. This could indicate that the companies classify certain expenses differently - Tesco classifies more expenses as COGS.
b.

| Balance Sheet | TescoFebruary 23, 2013 |  | AholdDecember 30, 2012 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | (£millions) | \% | (Emillions) | \% |
| Current assets | £13,096 | 26.1\% | € 4,416 | 29.3\% |
| Long-term assets | 37,033 | 73.9\% | 10,666 | 70.7\% |
| Total assets | £50,129 | 100.0\% | €15,082 | 100.0\% |
| Current liabilities | £18,985 | 37.9\% | € 4,427 | 29.4\% |
| Long-term liabilities | 14,483 | 28.9\% | 4,660 | 30.9\% |
| Total liabilities | 33,468 | 66.8\% | 9,087 | 60.3\% |
| Stockholder's equity | 16,661 | 33.2\% | 5,995 | 39.7\% |
| Total liabilities and equity | £50,129 | 100.0\% | $€ 15,082$ | 100.0\% |

c. Ahold has a greater proportion of stockholders' equity in its capital structure: 39.7\% compared to Tesco's 33.2\%. A greater proportion of debt is generally viewed as a riskier capital structure. So, on that basis, we would conclude that Tesco is the riskier company. That said, neither of these companies carries a large percentage of long-term debt. We would conclude that they are both very solvent.

## I 2-50. (40 minutes)

a. Depreciation is added back to undo the effect it had on the income statement. AstraZeneca deducted $\$ 2,518$ million of depreciation expense in computing net income. Depreciation is a noncash expense so AstraZeneca did not actually use $\$ 2,518$ million of cash to pay depreciation expense. Thus, to determine how much cash was generated, net income is lower that cash from operations by the depreciation amount of $\$ 2,518$ million. The depreciation add-back is NOT a source of cash as some mistakenly believe. Cash is generated by profitable operations, not by depreciation.
b. Revenue is recognized, and net profit increased, when it is earned, whether or not cash is received. Sales on account, therefore, increase profit and increase receivables. When cash is collected, the company does not record another sale. Thus, the decrease in receivables reflects the fact that cash increased but there was no effect on net income.

An increase in inventories means that purchases have exceeded goods sold for the period. Cash was used for these purchases and thus the statement of cash flows shows this as a negative.

The decrease in trade and other payables and provisions reflects payment for goods purchased in prior periods; the effect on cash is negative. This decreased cash but did not affect current income.
c. To grow and remain competitive, companies must continue to invest in their infrastructure. Capital expenditures (CAPEX) are necessary both for routine equipment replacements and for new additions. Depreciation expense represents the using up of depreciable assets. In general, we should expect CAPEX to exceed depreciation expense. This indicates that the company is growing its infrastructure as well as replacing the portion that is wearing out. This is not the case in 2012for Astra Zeneca; $\$ 672$ million was used for new equipment whereas depreciation was $\$ 2,518$ million. Some new equipment might have been purchased as part of the acquisitions (total $\$ 1,187$ million) but even so, the total CAPEX is less than depreciation for the year.
d. AstraZeneca generated a significant amount of cash in 2012 and paid a hefty dividend. If AstraZeneca can make a better return on reinvesting its cash back into the business than the return shareholders can earn for themselves on the cash they would receive, AstraZeneca should forgo paying dividends. Many companies with large cash inflows, especially mature companies in relatively saturated markets, find it hard to uncover additional investment opportunities. In those cases, returning the cash to investors is better than investing it in marketable securities, because investors can do that for themselves.
e. AstraZeneca generated cash flows of $\$ 6,948$ million from operating activities in 2012. The company had a net cash outflow from investing activities of $\$ 1,859$ million. This outflow was due primarily to purchases of intangible assets $\$ 3,947$ million and the acquisitions totaling $\$ 1,187$ million. The company also had a net cash outflow from financing activities of $\$ 4,923$ million from dividend payments and repurchases of stock. Cash increased slightly during the year from $\$ 7,434$ million to $\$ 7,596$ million.

## MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS

## MA2-51. (25 minutes)

a. The cash conversion cycle is the number of days that pass from the time the company pays cash to purchase or manufacture inventory, sells the inventory and ultimately collects the accounts receivable. This period of time is reduced to the extent that suppliers finance a portion of the inventory purchase.

Receivables and inventories are costly to maintain. They must be financed (either with borrowed funds or by forgoing investment in other earning assets), collected (with some prospect of loss), stored, insured, and moved. By reducing the amount of investment in these assets, companies can reduce their expenses and their need for external capital.
b. A company might reduce its cash conversion cycle by reducing receivables and inventories and by increasing accounts payable.

1. Receivables - managers can reduce receivables by invoking more stringent creditgranting policies. Companies need appropriate policies to decide to whom to extend credit and in what dollar amount. As credit policies become more restrictive, the dollar amount of receivables declines. Managers can also implement more aggressive and or efficient collection practices
2. Inventories - for retailers, inventories are the cost of the goods purchased for resale. For manufacturers, inventory costs include raw materials, and additional labor and overhead costs to convert the goods into salable form. Reducing inventory levels will reduce the cash conversion cycle time. This can happen with more efficient buying (purchasing for actual orders rather than for estimated demand) and with leaner manufacturing processes.
3. Payables - lengthening the time to pay accounts payable ("leaning on the trade") reduces the cash conversion cycle time because less of the company's own capital is invested in receivables and inventories.
c. Each action described above has implications for the company's relations with customers and suppliers.
4. Receivables - receivables are a marketing tool, like advertising, product promotions and selling expenses. Tightening a company's credit policies can adversely affect sales. On the other hand, more restrictive credit policies can reduce collection costs, bad debt expense, and financing costs. Establishing a credit policy and collection procedures involves balancing the competing effects of lost sales with cost savings.
5. Inventories - reducing finished goods inventory levels increases the risk of stock-outs and could result in lost sales. The decision about what depth and breadth of finished goods inventories to carry is as much a marketing decision as it is a financial one. Further, the amount of raw materials and work-in-process inventories on hand affects production efficiency and has financial implications. Inventory management is a delicate process that must be handled with care to balance competing needs.

## MA2-51.concluded

3. Payables - lengthening the time to pay accounts payable, while reducing the cash conversion cycle, may also damage relations with suppliers. One company's account payable is another's account receivable. There is a natural tension between two companies seeking to balance the period of time that the credit is outstanding. Although extending payables is favorable from a financial viewpoint, should supplier relations become strained, the company's ability to obtain additional products or services may be jeopardized. Policies relating to the payment of suppliers must be handled with care.

Working capital management is as much art as it is science. Companies must consider many constituencies in framing the appropriate policies.

## MA2-52. (30 minutes)

The FASB has traditionally taken the position that accounting standards should reflect the diversity of business models by allowing discretion in their application. Revenue recognition and expense recording is a case in point.
a. Following are some pros and cons of drafting more restrictive accounting standards:

Pros:

1. "One size fits all" accounting standards simplify the accounting process and make the resulting financial statements easier to interpret.
2. Reducing the discretion available to accountants also reduces the temptation to manage the financial statements to achieve managers' self-serving objectives.
3. Simplifying accounting standards will reduce complexity of the audit process as well as potential litigation costs because the rules are clear.

Cons:

1. Businesses are too complex to use a "one size fits all" standard- setting philosophy. Unique transactions and corporate relations may not lend themselves to classification in a standardized accounting system.
2. Creating "bright line" accounting standards (e.g., standards with numerical guidelines that direct the appropriate accounting treatment, such as the rules regarding recognition of off-balance sheet entities) invites creative managers to structure their deals so as to meet the technical requirements of the standard while violating its intent.
3. Standardizing accounting rules reduces the value added by professional accountants.

## MA2-52.concluded

b. The "end justifies the means" argument, frequently used in support of earnings management, is flawed on at least two fronts:

1. Earnings management is generally performed to "smooth" earnings fluctuations or to meet earnings targets. Typically the parties benefiting from this action are managers (because their compensation is contingent on meeting targets and because there will be less shareholder dissent when earnings targets are met) and investors long in the stock. Future investors, investors short in the stock, suppliers, lenders, and future employees may all be damaged as a result of the failure to provide timely and accurate financial information.
2. The argument implicitly assumes that managers are more capable of understanding financial reports than other market participants. To be sure, managers have access to information that is not available to the market, but managing financial results to filter what is seen, or not seen, by the market is not the answer. Rather, management should divulge more of its information in an unfiltered form and let the market make its own assessment.
