MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTING

HANSEN



Management Accounting

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To my wife, Jan, and my four children, Kenn, Neil, Ryan, and Makenzie.

PREFACE

This text is designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of management accounting. Study of the text assumes that students have been introduced to the basics of financial accounting. The emphasis is on managerial uses of accounting information.

Many of the students in business schools who are required to take a course in management accounting are not majors in the accounting field. For these students, it is often difficult to appreciate the value of the concepts being taught. This text attempts to overcome this attitude by introducing each chapter with a motivational scenario. Most (but not all) of these scenarios are based on real-world experiences and involve managers who are faced with some problem that requires the use of accounting information for its resolution. Seeing the potential usefulness of the material being studied should enhance the interest of nonaccounting majors in management accounting concepts.

Given the major changes that have taken place for many firms in the manufacturing environment, the choice of topical content became a major concern. There are some management accounting professors who feel that many, if not all, of the traditional management accounting concepts are obsolete and should no longer be taught. Although many of the conventional product-costing methods may indeed be outmoded for some manufacturing firms, it is my observation that this is not true for all manufacturing firms and certainly not true for all organizations. Nonetheless, the changes that are taking place are too important to be ignored. Students need to be aware of Just-in-Time manufacturing and its impact on management accounting, activity-based costing, quality costing, and other changes that are affecting the way management accounting is practiced.

To deal with the evolution of management accounting concepts, I have

included four chapters that cover the changes that are affecting management accounting. Specifically, three of these chapters deal with the impact of the new manufacturing environment on product costing, decision making, and planning and control. The fourth chapter deals with measuring and controlling quality costs.

Another area of contemporary interest in accounting is that of ethical behavior. Ethical lapses by many managers and accounting professionals have led to calls to increase the discussion of ethical behavior in the classroom. Because of its very nature, management accounting provides many excellent settings for addressing this topic. I discuss the role of ethics in the introductory chapter and introduce the code of ethics developed by the National Association of Accountants. I then provide a problem involving an ethical dilemma in each chapter of the text. This affords the instructor the opportunity to introduce value judgments in managerial accounting decisions.

I have tried to provide down-to-earth discussions of the concepts in each chapter and simple and numerous examples. The concepts are always cast in a real-world context to add credibility and interest to the material.

Finally, some mention of supplements needs to be made. The text is accompanied by a Test Bank, a Solutions Manual, an Instructor's Manual, and a set of problems with computer applications. Within the text itself, specific problems and exercises are targeted for computer applications. For convenience, these problems are identified with a diskette symbol.

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