

2 Questions for Becker Concerning Budget Cuts

CoB TM/MGT (?) associate professor Cherylynn Becker was brought to the CoB – shortly after the beginning of the Harold Doty administration (2003-07) – to chair the tourism management department. Despite a number of "issues," she hung on to that role for some time, though she ultimately stepped down and assumed a rank-and-file TM faculty position in the CoB. Given her past administrative position, however, one has to conclude that she developed at least *some* reliable channels of "inside information" at USM. So, it's no surprise that we connected some dots recently when we heard that Becker may have actually *requested* the move to the MGT faculty that was the subject of an [18-May-09 Breaking News](#) story here at USMNEWS.net.

In order to provide some background context, the story linked above reports that Becker had become unmanageable in TM and was moved (by the CoB's central administration) to MGT, a statement that was reiterated by USMNEWS.net sources just recently. Only now reports are coming in, as indicated above, that Becker may have requested the move and that CoB administrators simply jumped at the opportunity provided to them by her. Assuming Becker requested the move perhaps shines a different light on recent speculation that the CoB's TM department is going to be either (1) reduced and consolidated or (2) eliminated by the Lance Nail administration of the CoB in an effort to cut \$2 million from the CoB's budget. That light bolsters the speculation because it seems to some that Becker may have known back in May that cuts were coming that might threaten the CoB's TM faculty. That light, therefore, puts two questions out there for Becker to answer: when did she first learn about the impending budget cuts facing the Nail administration, and what does she know about how that administration is going to address them?