

31st & Pearl

What is MISsing Here?

So, MIS professor, Donna Davis, wants to bring former CoB assistant professor of MIS, Dale Lunsford, now at High Point University, back. I get that. Lunsford has been hired, and will assume a position down at the CoB's Long Beach division. I sort of understand that, though it's still not clear why USM-GC MIS instructor, Fujun Lai, is teaching *non*-MIS MGT in Hattiesburg. That's a subject for another *31st & Pearl*.

However, we've been hearing that the Hattiesburg CoB operation has hired its own (i.e., not Lunsford) assistant professor of MIS. What's this for? Who left? Isn't the whole MIS program on thin ice? That's what former CoB Dean, Harold Doty, put out there, and what current Interim CoB Dean, Alvin Williams, has done little, if anything, to contradict.

Here's one possibility. At the risk of intruding upon GH Chatter's turf, word is going around that forces are conspiring to convince USM's top brass to cut CoB-H MIS faculty Kuo Lane Chen loose. If true, this one will not only come as a surprise to Chen, it will likely shock Chen's mentor, the McCarty Distinguished Professor of MIS, Chang-Tseh Hsieh. Following another quirky process that was cooked up by CoB administrators last year after complaints surfaced indicating that Chen's mastery of English (as a second language) was anything but a mastery, Chen's 6th Year P&T Review to be "tabled." Hsieh, we are told, has worked hard to position Chen's "7th Year Tenure Review" in the best possible light. Well, here we are in April of 2008, about one year later, and Chen's future in the CoB appears to be toast.

What are CoB faculty to make of all this? Is the new CoB-H hire in MIS a preemptive strike, one aimed at filling a hole before it's dug? No one knows. Everyone is awaiting the next Act.

31st & Pearl is a series housed at usmnews.net that features commentary on aspects of life in the CoB from a variety of columnists.