

## CoB to Get \$33 Million Facility

HATTIESBURG – According to a 29-Mar-2011 [report](#) by *The Hattiesburg American*, the Martha Saunders administration of USM announced (also on 29-Mar-2011) the kickoff of a \$10 million private fundraising campaign to support construction of a new, \$33 million facility for USM's College of Business. During the legislative session last year, the legislature provided \$11 million in public funds for the building. This year's session is expected to produce another \$15 million in construction funds, meaning that a successful private fundraising campaign would take the total raised to \$36 million. The extra \$3 million has been budgeted to cover "upkeep" of the building, at least according to *THA's* report. Sources say, however, that this \$3 million may ultimately get swept up by the Saunders administration, and in the process result in the institution acquiring so-called capital funds, which are intended for brick and mortar projects, for use on the academic affairs and/or athletics side of the institution. Both *THA* and USM, via Van Arnold's 29-Mar-2011 [USM presser](#), indicate that \$1 million in private funds has already been pledged, courtesy of a donation from Tom and Jana McDonnell. Arnold also reports that another \$1 million is expected from a group of alumni, including Tom and Lou Ann Poynter, Carlos and Judy Tolosa, Chuck Atwood, and the Caesars Foundation.



As the artist's rendering above shows, the building will face Hwy 49, and sit next to the Trent Lott Center. It will be 50% larger than Joseph Greene Hall, which is necessary according to CoB dean Lance Nail, who told reporters that the CoB ". . . has simply outgrown the size . . . of Greene Hall." One *THA* online reader, [UniversityRx](#), disagrees, noting that several spaces in JGH are rarely ever used by the CoB. That particular online comment is inserted below.

## UniversityRx

8:38 PM on March 29, 2011

Walk the halls of the business college on a daily basis and check the truth of this comment: "Dean Lance Nail said that the 2,300-student college has simply outgrown the size and technology of Greene Hall. The new building will have 50 percent more space and a distance learning lecture hall."

Start your tour a little before 8am and continue every hour throughout the day, everyday for a week. You'll find room after room unoccupied, unused.

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that the online comment is justified, given that the CoB no longer includes economics or management information systems. According to the Feb-2011 [update to](#) the faculty losses report, the CoB has suffered a *net* loss of 14 economics faculty, one finance faculty, four management information systems faculty, one marketing faculty, and three tourism management faculty - all since 2003. After accounting for other gains, as well as recent departures, the CoB is down a *net* of 17 or 18 faculty, or about 25% of earlier levels. These numbers cast serious doubt on Nail's comments. Lastly, the recent *Special Report* [here](#) at USMNEWS.net, about USM's new classification of its business college faculty as "teachers," contradicts both Saunders' comment to Arnold, that "[t]he College of Business is a premier program at Southern Miss," as well as the general idea that Greene Hall is no longer able to house the institution's (shrinking) business programs and staff.