

Hsieh Leaving USM's Business College

HATTIESBURG – After a 20-25 year tenure in USM's business college, MIS professor Chang-Tseh Hsieh is departing. Hsieh, who recently was named one of only a handful of University Distinguished Professors (UDP) at USM, becomes the third CoB faculty to announce his departure in recent weeks, following finance faculty Matthew Hood and Farooq Malik.

Sources describe Hsieh's stint in the CoB as a political one. Having flourished under a series of deans, Hsieh's favorable position with CoB administration took a hit with the hiring of Harold Doty as the b-school dean back in 2003. Doty quickly moved to eliminate the CoB's MIS program, yet despite having the support of MIS professor Donna Davis, Doty's plan was deflected by a small group of MIS faculty and Doty's associate dean, Farhang Niroomand. However, the departure of Doty in 2007 and the arrival of current dean Lance Nail in 2008 would spell doom for the CoB's MIS program. Nail succeeded where Doty failed, and now the MIS program is defunct.

Hsieh is currently earning almost \$102,000 (in E&G monies) on a 9-month basis. When combined with the 9-month salaries of Hood and Malik, the CoB's budget has taken a hit, a least temporarily if not permanently, of almost \$300,000 in recent weeks. Under the Saunders administration's new model, faculty losses in one area may result in gains in other, more notable (signature) programs located elsewhere on campus. With MIS no longer in existence, Hsieh's line will almost certainly move out of the CoB. Sources speculate that Malik's line may also go elsewhere.