

BREAKING NEWS

Secret Plan to Ship ECO to CoAL Rejected

HATTIESBURG -- A secret plan to move the CoB's economists to the College of Arts & Letters was rejected by a vote of CoAL's international affairs and political science faculty on 31-Oct-08. That plan was reportedly put together in a low-key manner by new CoB dean Lance Nail and supported by new CoAL dean Denise von Herrmann, and faculty in the CoAL disciplines above had been, until the vote of 31-Oct-08, discussing elements of it for several days. If it had succeeded in the CoAL, sources tell USMNEWS.net that Nail planned to announce the move of the economists at the CoB-wide faculty meeting on 31-Oct-08.

Sources also tell USMNEWS.net that EFIB chairman George Carter and professor of economics Farhang Niroomand were absolutely livid upon hearing the news of the plan. They visited Nail on multiple occasions to express displeasure in the plan, as well as officials in the central administration of USM in the Aubrey K. Lucas Building. Despite these protestations, the fate of the CoB's economists remained in the hands of a number of faculty in the CoAL, who ultimately rejected the plan. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that the CoAL faculty know of Carter's reputation as a heavy-handed, ruthless administrator, and many in the economics group are known in the CoAL to be back-door deal-makers who politicize so-called merit-based reward systems at every opportunity.

Given the gravity of this situation, and what it reveals about political life in the CoB, expect more reporting on this issue and others in the near future.