

BREAKING NEWS UPDATE

Plan to Move ECO Tabled, not Dead

HATTIESBURG – The [3-Nov-08](#) **BREAKING NEWS** story entitled “Secret Plan to Ship ECO to CoAL Rejected” has prompted responses from USM insiders and USMNEWS.net readers alike. As a result, reporters have learned a number of new things about the plan to ship ECO to CoAL. One of these is that the original plan had two prongs, both of which were rejected by faculty in CoAL’s international affairs and political science department. One of these prongs was the merger of all of the CoB’s economists with this particular department. The second option was for members of this CoAL department to accept a subset of the CoB’s economists. Despite having the support of new CoAL dean Denise von Herrmann, both options failed by a vote of CoAL’s international affairs and political science faculty.

According to information just received by USMNEWS.net, the second option developed by new CoB dean Lance Nail (and described above) involved sending five of the CoB’s economists over to CoAL, perhaps as a precursor to moving more economists over at a later date. One person who spoke to USMNEWS.net on the basis of anonymity stated that the five economists were not fully named, though three of the five names were floated. These are Mark Klinedinst, Daniel Monchuk and Farhang Niroomand.



Mark Klinedinst



Daniel Monchuk



Farhang Niroomand

Reports and editorials here at USMNEWS.net have discussed the troubles that Nail has been having with various economics faculty. These troubles also extend back into the administrations of former CoB deans Harold Doty and William Gunther. Though it is not known just what specific priorities Nail had in mind when selecting these three economists for expulsion from the CoB, it is easy to speculate on the choices involving Klinedinst and Niroomand, two failed administrators from the Doty era (2003-07). Insiders have informed USMNEWS.net in the recent past that the CoB’s economists have been whining to Nail about various issues that have arisen since Nail’s arrival, such as the

removal of a number of *Business Advisory Council* and *Partnership Society Professorships* from that unit since summer of 2008. And, [past reports](#) at USMNEWS.net [have shown](#) these three economists to be [resource hogs](#).

In another twist to this story, USMNEWS.net has been informed that the plan to move ECO (or part of it) to CoAL is not yet done. Because the prior plan involved merging ECO (or part of it) into an existing CoAL department, CoAL constituencies were extended the right to vote on the plans. Now sources tell USMNEWS.net that plans are being drawn up to create a separate department in the CoAL for the CoB's economists, and that these new plans do not call for a faculty vote of any kind in the CoAL. With the combined support of Nail and von Herrmann, any plan that sidesteps a faculty vote is sure to produce the desired result of moving CoB economists across the street and into the LAB.