

## Laatsch Removed as Chairman of FINREBL

HATTIESBURG – Francis Laatsch, chairman of the CoB’s finance, real estate, and business law department, was removed from that post over the summer (2011) by CoB dean Lance Nail. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Nail’s rationale for removing Laatsch resides in an alleged SACS rule that requires departmental chairs to hold terminal degrees in the area(s) listed in the department’s title, though sources also add that such a “rule” does not likely exist. If so, then the actual reason for Laatsch’s removal remains a mystery. Nail, the CoB’s dean since July-2008, is now also serving as chairman of the FINREBL.



Laatsch

Nail

Peyrefitte

Pate

LaFleur

In related news, sources tell USMNEWS.net that [newly elevated](#) associate deans Joseph Peyrefitte and Gwen Pate [will likely](#) be getting nice raises in the coming days. Reports coming into USMNEWS.net also indicate that Pate now holds the title of associate dean for graduate and undergraduate services. Elizabeth LaFleur, a professor of marketing at CoB-Gulf Coast, is the new interim associate dean of CoB-GC, meaning that Nail now has *three* associate deans in his administration. These moves confirm earlier reports about how the CoB’s administration is rapidly growing, reaching the level, for many at least, to qualify as what USM provost Robert Lyman refers to as “administrative bloat.”