

Breaking News

A “Bring ‘Em All Home” Meltdown

HATTIESBURG – A faction of faculty in the CoB’s Department of Management & Marketing that includes management professors Stephen Bushardt and David Duhon is telling anyone and everyone who will listen about its displeasure with the department’s decision not to offer Kirk Ring a tenure-track position in the department. As reported earlier, Ring is currently a PhD student at Mississippi State University who also holds a business degree from USM’s College of Business. As such, Ring has been a key component in the CoB’s “Bring ‘Em All Home” hiring program of 2007-08, wherein USM degree-holding, potentially compliant job market candidates are favored (by many in the CoB’s senior faculty ranks) over other “external” candidates as a way of maintaining *status quo* politics in the CoB.

Based on stories in circulation, the department voted for a female candidate over Ring in recent days, and some in the CoB are upset with the outcome and are rumored to be working behind the scenes to reverse the outcome.¹ Reporters have contacted USMNEWS.NET sources, however there has been no information put forward as to whether or not the “faction” mentioned above is working behind the scenes to overturn the previous vote. If such a move is in the works, it will reek of gender discrimination, an issue that has marked the CoB’s recent past. The most notable recent occurrence of possible gender bias came with the move by EFIB Chairman George Carter to offer finance faculty candidate Phyllis Keys, an African-American female, about \$12,000 *less than* what was eventually paid to current assistant professor of finance, Matthew Hood, as a starting salary during that same hiring season (2005-06). Though Carter was at the forefront of the episode, sources tell USMNEWS.NET that former Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand was heavily involved, as was former Dean Harold Doty.

¹ By all accounts, the female candidate’s vita is objectively superior to Ring’s.