

Breaking News

Goodwin Coming Back to Hattiesburg

HATTIESBURG – Reporters at USMNEWS.NET have learned that the CoB’s finance faculty have invited Kimberly Goodwin for an on-campus job interview. That visit is slated for 26-October-2007. Goodwin is currently a PhD candidate in finance at the University of Alabama. Like many of the CoB’s other tenure-track position finalists, Goodwin also holds a degree from USM’s College of Business.

The invitation to Goodwin marks the second time in three years that CoB administrators have selected a female candidate with a doctorate from UofAL as a finalist for a tenure-track position in finance. During the EFIB’s 2005-06 job search process, EFIB search team leaders George Carter (EFIB Chair) and Charles Sawyer (now with TCU) invited Phyllis Keys to campus for a finalist interview. Unlike Goodwin, Keys, an African – American female, had “degree in hand” and was on staff full-time at another university at the time she visited the CoB in the fall of 2005.

After her visit, Keys was offered a tenure-track job in the EFIB. However, sources state that Keys was offered a salary of only \$85,000 per year, and at a time when the market for new hires in finance was generating offers over \$100,000 per year. As expected, Keys turned down the CoB’s offer and little or no effort was made by the CoB’s administration to secure a better deal for Keys. What made “the Keys episode” even more troubling is that the EFIB ultimately hired Stephen Haggard and Matthew Hood, two Caucasian males who were working on their doctorates at the time, at salaries of \$97,500, or \$12,500 more than Keys was offered. Haggard has since departed the CoB (for Missouri State University), but Hood remains, and he is now earning \$101,003 per year.

Though “the Keys episode” appeared to have the makings of both a gender and racial discrimination scenario, according to sources no investigation of the matter was ever conducted by officials at USM. Since that episode, sources have told our reporters that some in the CoB have pointed to the involvement of former Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand, as well as former Dean Harold Doty.