

Breaking News

Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams to Retire

HATTIESBURG – USMNEWS.NET reporters have learned that Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams will retire at the end of this academic year (2007-08). Williams announced his plans to retire to CoB faculty via e-mail on 12-Nov-2007, stating that after "almost 30 years of service to Southern Miss, I have made the very, very difficult decision to retire on June 30, 2008." Sources tell USMNEWS.NET reporters that Williams' decision to retire in June of 2008 explains his willingness, after turning down so many other invitations to serve as CoB Dean, to accept the Interim CoB Dean position on 10-April-07. In doing so, Williams was able to parley one year of Interim service into a final year salary of \$175,000, boosting his *PERS base* by at least \$12,500.

Williams' decision to retire will only fuel speculation that the CoB is facing an uphill battle to regain a clean accreditation status from the AACSB. The CoB is currently facing a "6th Year Review" in February of 2008, and there has been little evidence produced to date that has shown any widespread faculty participation in the process. Sources also tell USMNEWS.NET that Williams' decision to leave USM after 30 years could also be the result, at least in part, of behind-the-scenes political pressures put on Williams by a key internal political faction in the CoB consisting of EFIB Chair George Carter, former CoB Dean Harold Doty, and management professor Stephen Bushardt.

Williams' e-mail also highlights just how the "Bring 'Em All Home" program works. In his e-mail, Williams points out that he arrived at USM as a freshman in 1971, or 36 years ago. After taking away the 30 years of service to USM, that leaves six years for Williams to pick up the requisite undergraduate and graduate education for employment at USM. Thus, the data in Williams' e-mail indicate that he has spent none of his professional life outside of USM and Hattiesburg.

His e-mail does, however, conclude by informing CoB faculty that he (Williams) will follow the usual "model" of seeking a teaching post elsewhere. If successful, Williams' total salary next year could easily be as large, if not larger than his current one, and for *only 9 months of teaching*.

The full text of Williams' e-mail is inserted below.

Date: Mon, 12 Nov 2007
From: Alvin Williams <alvin.williams@usm.edu>
To: cob-facstaff@usm.edu
Cc: Martha.Saunders@usm.edu, 'Margie P Jepson' <Margie.Jepson@usm.edu>, 'Bobby Middlebrooks' <Bobby.Middlebrooks@usm.edu>
Subject: [Cob-facstaff] Retirement

Colleagues:

After almost 30 years of service to Southern Miss, I have made the very, very difficult decision to retire on June 30, 2008. Having arrived on this

campus as a freshman in 1971, I have very deep emotional ties to this institution. It has been a distinct honor and privilege to work with all of you in the College of Business. The College has a strong tradition of teaching excellence, research, service, and commitment to students. I am confident that these things will continue. The future of the College is exceptionally bright. President Saunders is genuinely committed to the College and she has expressed her desire to make this program a shining light in management education.

As you know, at the 30-year mark, many professors retire and consider teaching opportunities elsewhere. I too will follow that model. Thank you for being fantastic colleagues over the years. Best wishes for continued success!

Thanks.

Alvin J. Williams, Interim Dean
College of Business
University of Southern Mississippi
118 College Drive #5021
Hattiesburg, MS 39406-0001
601.266.4634 voicemail / 601.266.5814 FAX
alvin.williams@usm.edu
www.usm.edu