

## **Breaking News**

### **King Declared "Professionally Qualified"**

HATTIESBURG – Reporters at USMNEWS.NET have just learned that associate professor of legal studies, Ernest King, was recently classified as "Professionally Qualified" by Interim Dean Alvin Williams and the CoB's AACSB Maintenance of Accreditation team. "Professionally Qualified" and "Academically Qualified" are the two important AACSB designations of an institution's corps of instruction, and business schools with "too many" faculty who are not classified as either one or the other face potential accreditation difficulties.

The USM College of Business faced such difficulties after its AACSB Peer Review Team visited the Hattiesburg campus in February of 2007 and found that the CoB had some AQ-PQ issues. Because of these findings, the CoB's AACSB PRT concluded that a return visit in 2008 was necessary. CoB officials have described the case for a re-review a close one, but have begun preparing for the inevitable visit.

Sources tell USMNEWS.NET that former CoB Dean Harold Doty and EFIB Chair George Carter refused to classify King as "PQ," even though the information available to the Williams Administration that was used recently to place King in "PQ" form was available to both Doty and Carter. According to sources, Doty and Carter were guided by their personal enmity toward King in their effort to prevent him from acquiring "PQ" standing. In doing so, the actions of Doty and Carter may have cost the CoB a clean bill of health from the AACSB back in February of 2007, and may yet do so again when February of 2008 rolls around.