

## Breaking News

### SAIS' Jackson All Over the Board on Travel Funds

LONG BEACH – SAIS Director Steven Jackson's recent proclamation that the CoB's accounting faculty will now face a separate (from the rest of the CoB) set of research expectations surprised many CoB faculty outside of the SAIS. At the same time, part of Jackson's *original* plan -- announced just days ago -- likely came as a surprise to accountants in the SAIS. That part came with Jackson's statement that each accountant will have only up to **\$750/yr** to spend on University-related travel. And, according to Jackson at least, this amount would be available only in the event that the particular faculty member participates in an academic conference or meeting.

Jackson's stipend comes at a time when other CoB faculty are supported at a level that is two-to-three times that of Jackson's *original* plan for \$750/yr. That early surprise was short-lived, however, when Jackson announced during the second week of spring 2008 that an additional \$250/yr would be made available to CoB accountants, bringing the total up to **\$1,000/yr**. Jackson's announcement was made after he (Jackson) discovered additional funds for travel in the SAIS budget.

Though greater, this *new* amount remains at only just over 50 percent of the level of support provided to CoB faculty in other departments. Not only that, Jackson's instability in this area of fiscal management is exacerbating the conference travel planning difficulties that exist naturally. Finally, the apparent discriminatory nature of CoB travel support -- in favor of faculty outside of accounting -- would appear to set the CoB's central administration up for future administrative, if not legal, quagmires.