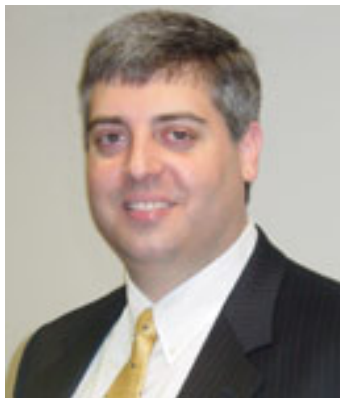


# Clark to Chair FRELS?

## A Look at What “Yes” Might Mean for Other Parts of the CoB

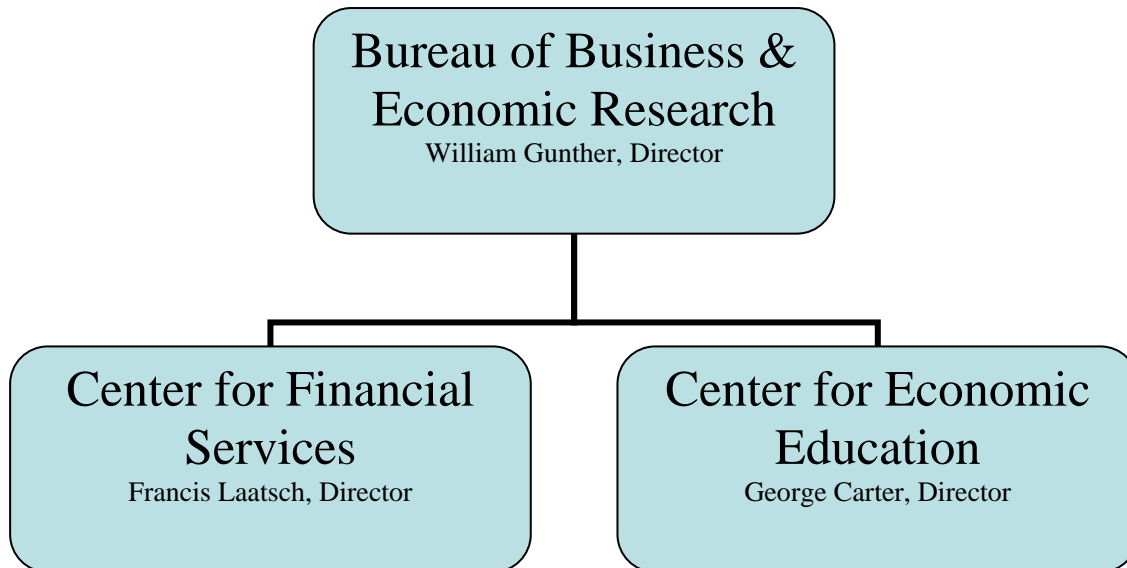
It is an understatement to say that the prospect of having to spend \$900,000 per year using external personnel to staff the chairperson’s office of each of the six new CoB departments in new CoB dean Lance Nail’s 2008 reorganization plan is daunting. Because of the financial strains faced by Mississippi, such a plan is DOA to say the least. That means that Nail and his associate dean Joseph Peyrefitte are going to have look inside the CoB to find leaders for these divisions, and that possibility has a number of CoBers concerned, and possibly rightly so given [the recent report](#) indicating that MIS professor Donna Davis will likely become the inaugural chair of Business, Economics and Management Information Systems (BEMIS). Another potential move in this regard might also concern CoBers. That one comes from information in sourced reports suggesting that associate professor of finance John Clark is likely to be tabbed by Nail to head Finance, Real Estate and Legal Studies (FRELS). It is no secret among inhabitants of the third floor of JAG that Clark is not enamored with the work involved in sustaining an academic research track, so an administrative assignment, with its administrative salary stipend, would most likely be very appealing to Clark. According to documents in USMNEWS.net’s inventory, Clark currently earns \$110,678 per year (9-months). “Free summers” would extend Clark’s contract to 12 months, increasing his salary to about \$122,000 per year. From this point, an administrative stipend in the range of \$10,000 to \$15,000, an amount that would increase his compensation total to \$132,000 to \$137,000, would likely be plenty to move Clark in the administration direction. This could more easily be accommodated by the CoB’s existing budget (as shown below).



**John Clark**

The selection of Clark is not without its problems. First, Clark is currently an *untenured* associate professor. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that Clark’s tenure prospects face one potential roadblock – that he was hired to direct the CoB’s Center for Financial Services (CFS) and he has heretofore essentially neglected that enterprise altogether. As such, there are clear grounds for denying Clark tenure. It is more likely, however, that Nail will want to tap Clark for the administrative role of chair of FRELS, in which case Clark would be guaranteed tenure. Clark would almost certainly respond positively to such an enticement. Second, the details in the first point above – that Clark is currently the director of the CFS – touch upon another sticky aspect of Clark’s candidacy, and that is: what to do with the CFS? Sources tell USMNEWS.net reporters that Nail could easily solve two

problems at once by moving Clark into the chairman's (of FRELS) office, as the following organizational chart shows how:



The organizational chart above places the CFS under the umbrella of William Gunther's Bureau of Business & Economic Research. Not only that, there the CFS is headed by newly-hired CoB associate professor of finance Francis Laatsch. And, there is yet a third interesting aspect to the chart above – current EFIB chair George Carter becomes the director of the CoB's Center for Economic Education, a position currently held by Susan Doty, wife of former CoB dean Harold Doty. Carter's current salary as EFIB chairman is \$130,940 (12-month). Upon relinquishing this position to MIS professor Donna Davis, Carter's salary could be cut down to \$105,940 (9-month). Out of the \$25,000 salary savings from cutting out Carter, \$15,000 could be returned to Carter for serving as the new CEE director. This would increase Carter's salary to \$120,940 (9-month). The remaining \$10,000 of the \$25,000 in "Carter savings" could be transferred to Laatsch for serving as the CFS director. This would take Laatsch from \$110,000 per year (9-month) to \$120,000 per year (9-month). Finally, Carter could assume Susan Doty's 2-course/semester teaching load, eliminating Doty from the CoB's faculty roster, resulting in another \$50,000 in salary savings, \$25,000 of which could be transferred to Clark for serving as FRELS chairman. In all, Nail's office potentially sees a return of \$25,000 per year, excluding fringes.



Francis Laatsch



Susan Doty



George Carter

This plan seems so easy that not implementing it would be considered more than a simple administrative failure.