

CoB Human Resources Update July, 2008

During the 2006-07 academic year, the CoB's AACSB woes were a major [area of coverage](#) by reporters here at USMNEWS.net. And as reported here, the source of many of the CoB's difficulties was the lack of scholarly activity. The CoB's problems in this area were reportedly widespread, and usually when such problems arise in a business school setting, the issue has many tentacles. The same can be said for the CoB, as so many reports and editorials at USMNEWS.net have indicated.

In the CoB's case, some have asserted that the move of associate professor, Joseph Peyrefitte, from a rank-and-file faculty line was a potential mistake as far as the CoB's scholarship profile is concerned, especially vis-à-vis the CoB's accreditation efforts beyond 2007. On 11-April-2007, one day after Alvin Williams was appointed interim dean of the CoB, Peyrefitte was appointed by Williams to the post of associate dean. By replacing the former associate dean, Farhang Niroomand, with Peyrefitte, a research profile (Niroomand's) that is arguably inferior to Peyrefitte's was sent back into the CoB's omnibus profile, while Peyrefitte's record, and motivation to continue producing academic research, were removed.



Joseph Peyrefitte

Insiders tell USMNEWS.net that it is no real secret in the CoB that Peyrefitte is not enamored with academic research. Throughout the years Peyrefitte referred to the tenure track as a "treadmill," and he sometimes remarked that he was looking forward to getting tenure so that he could get off of that "treadmill."¹ Though Peyrefitte was never going to be a research star for the CoB, a likely result from the attitude expressed above, his record is not only superior to Niroomand's, the previous associate dean, it is also better than average for USM's business school. For one, it includes a publication in management's premier journal, *The Academy of Management Journal*.



¹ Peyrefitte was on faculty at Mississippi State University before joining USM's CoB. While there, his research failed to meet expectations and he was denied tenure.

Secondly, Peyrefitte's second-line journal publication collection is respectable. That collection contains, but is not limited to, the journals shown below.



Included in the group of journals above are:

- *Journal of Managerial Issues*
- *Group & Organization Management*
- *Management Decision*
- *Strategic Organization*
- *Human Resource Management Review*

Finally, not shown in the group above is the *International Journal of Management*, an outlet Peyrefitte's research has appeared in on more than one occasion. As the CoB's 2012 Maintenance of Accreditation Review inches closer, if any scholarship problems arise in the management area one will likely be able to include the placement of Peyrefitte in the dean's suite in the list of causes. The CoB's management unit has historically been one of its weakest in terms of scholarship. As such, it doesn't need any artificial handicaps.

The word about former CoB MGT & MKT chair, Barry Babin, continues to amaze. As reported earlier by USMNEWS.net, Babin was recently named President of the Academy of Marketing Science. Coupled with that news was the revelation that the *Journal of the Academy of Marketing Science* was moving to Babin's new academic home, Louisiana Tech University.



Barry Babin

Based on the number of publications the *Journal of Business Research* that Babin, an editor of that journal, and his associates have amassed over the past decade or so, some are speculating that Babin's name, and that of other Babin associates, will be appearing more regularly in the *JAMS*.