

# CoB News, 12 October 2009

## **“Beleaguered Nail,” by 31<sup>st</sup> & Pearl Columnist**

CoB dean Lance Nail must be feeling the sting of losing another battle with the CoB’s economists, who were recently saved from Nail’s budget-cutting by the Martha Saunders administration of USM. Now comes the bleakest of pictures, painted at USM’s fall 2009 convocation by *Mississippi IHL Commissioner Hank Bounds*, indicating that Mississippi could completely should down Delta State, Valley State, Alcorn State and MUW, and USM *would still be facing a budget cut*. With CoB faculty numbers at their lowest mark in decades, Nail faces an uncertain future at USM, which expects to be in budget-cutting mode through 2012, if not longer.

Sources say that you can bet that each issue of *Biz Ed* will be scoured by Nail in an effort to maintain contacts in the “dean’s market” as job openings arise throughout the academic year. When those openings involve b-schools housing ECO, however, you can also bet that Nail’s chances of landing there will be small, especially if the ECOers there are looking to stay affiliated with business. A wild card in this process is how two former CoBers – Harold Doty and Farhang Niroomand – are speaking about Nail in dean’s circles. Some sources believe that these two are “poisoning the well” for Nail, though whether or not Nail cares about such a possibility is an open question. Remember, Doty and Niroomand needed former USM contacts (e.g., Tim Hudson, Gregg Lassen) to secure their current deanships, and even then we’re talking about low-rung affiliations (University of Houston at Victoria and University of Texas at Tyler).

## **USM Video**

It was interesting to see the latest “USM video,” played at the fall 2009 convocation. Current *Max Draughn Distinguished Professor of Healthcare Marketing*, Michael Wittmann, was pictured in it stating, in Thames-esque fashion, how much he loves being at USM. Meanwhile, the USMNEWS.net archives are filled with reports and editorials about Wittmann’s journey *back to USM*, which was facilitated by his mentor, former CoB interim dean Alvin Williams. Williams also facilitated the return of former classmate Elizabeth LaFleur, who is currently managing the CoB’s graduate programs from CoB-GC. LaFleur took over these duties from Kenneth Zantow, the associate professor of management who was granted a so-called “4<sup>th</sup> Year tenure review” (after failing 3<sup>rd</sup>

Year review) by former CoB dean and Zantow friend, Harold Doty. Zantow's stint as grad director was both mired in failure and brief, neither of which surprised many in the CoB. With budget cuts mounting at USM, it is not likely that what sources refer to as *cronyism hires* like those above will be occurring on a regular basis. As it stands, hiring processes at USM are essentially frozen for some time to come.