

# CoB News, 16 June 2008

## Williams Takes it on the Chen

A number of reports here at USMNEWS.NET have stated that Interim CoB Dean Alvin Williams joined Interim SAIS Director Steve Jackson and various SAIS faculty in opposing the tenure application of assistant professor of MIS Kuo Lane Chen. Reporters at USMNEWS.NET have since learned that Williams was not a part of the opposition group after all. Instead, he went along with other administrators in the decision to tenure Chen, a move some believe came out of Williams' desire to avoid another battle during his last weeks in office.

Recent reports have shown that Chen is one of the worst instructors in the CoB, presumably a result stemming from her inability to communicate effectively with her students. Other reports have shown that Chen is arguably the CoB's most prominent gut prof, having made the assignment of Fs and Ds in her classes extremely rare. Given what academicians know about the positive relationship between grades and student evaluations, for Chen to be an "easy grader" who is consistently rated low by her students speaks volumes for how CoB students would have voted on Chen's tenure application if they had the opportunity to record their votes.

## A-less, Yet Famous

The recent U.S. District Court deposition of Interim Dean Alvin Williams yielded some information that Williams' new employer, the Mitchell College of Business at the University of South Alabama, might find interesting. The MCoB at USA hired Williams as a *distinguished professor* of marketing for the 2008-09 academic year (and onward). Those portions of Williams' depositions that are of potential interest to USA follow (Q=legal counsel's question, A=Williams' answer):

Q. And you would agree with me, would you not, it's pretty unusual for somebody in the college of business to get an A journal?

A. An A journal is very good and important for college of business members, faculty members to achieve.

...

Q. Have you ever published in an A level journal?

A. I have not.

Officials at USA stated in an April 2007 press release that Williams' was a nationally recognized scholar in marketing. Yet in the testimony above Williams claimed that in a near 30 year career in academia that he (Williams) has never published in an A level journal. Of course, the former statement by USA officials is not supported by the latter statement from Williams.