

CoB News, 21 September 2009

Only 6 BAC Chairs?

CoB dean Lance Nail recently informed CoB faculty that previous CoB administrators were essentially spending money that didn't exist on the CoB's BAC/Partnership Society Professorships. As a result, he announced that only 6 such chairs would be funded during the 2009-10 academic year. These are being awarded to Chang-Tseh Hsieh (DS), Ernest King (BL), Fujun Lai (DS), Wesley Pollette (MKT), Jennifer Sequeira (MGT) and Michael Wittmann (MKT). Both Hsieh and Wittmann currently hold the more prestigious *McCarty* and *Draughn Distinguished Professorships*, respectively, but as USM president Martha Saunders recently noted, all of the institution's professorships are currently "under water." As a result, there are no stipends attached to these during 2009-10. As one can see from the list above, both decision sciences and marketing lead the way with two each, while business law and management each have one. Of course, the obvious omission is with economics, which sources tell USMNEWS.net has been slipping on the scholarly activities front since losing a number of quality faculty in recent years. Also missing from the list is accounting, a unit that has a new, high-dollar administrator in Kirby E. "Skip" Hughes from LSU. It remains to be seen whether accounting is continuing its long slide or if Hughes has them turned around now.

New CoB Slogan

Based on CoB dean Lance Nail's 18-Sept-09 "State of the CoB" address, former CoB dean Harold Doty's "Developing Careers" mantra for the organization is now out. It has now been replaced by "Building Better Business." Sources say that, irrespective of one's feelings about the new slogan, the change is probably a positive one. This is so given evidence presented long ago by USMNEWS.net showing that Doty may have lifted, and without proper citation, the former slogan from a popular management textbook.

The CoB's Research Doldrums

CoB dean Lance Nail reported to CoBers last week that the CoB currently has only 9 publications in ISI-rated academic journals. This number falls well below Nail's target of 20 by the end of the current examination period (i.e., by 2011). With CoB decision

scientist Fujun Lai producing about as much as humanly possible already, sources tell USMNEWS.net that meeting Nail's goal by the end date will be a difficult task at best. With budgets being cut (i.e., with no raises) and a dwindling number of BAC professorships, CoBers are being asked to do more with less. Only time will tell if they can collectively double their current level of research by 2011.

"Would You Like Fries with that Certificate?"

In an effort to pump up student credit hours (SCH) production, the Lance Nail administration of the CoB is promoting various academic certificate programs. In that effort, Nail will soon be travelling to Panama in order to gauge that country's interest in a CoB certificate program in casino management. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that the already instructor/professor of practice-centric CoB tourism management program is struggling. This point was made clear in a Feb-07 letter from then-USM provost Jay Grimes to then-CoB dean Harold Doty, wherein Grimes lambasted Doty for allowing the CoB's TM program to dwindle to near nothing. In a surprise move, Doty "resigned" his office/post in April-07, just two months later. Sources tell USMNEWS.net that the problems raised by Grimes' Feb-07 communication, which is housed at USMNEWS.net, were a major contributing factor to Doty's exit.