

CoB News, 30 November 2009

Their Final Semester

A number of CoBers are approaching their final semester (spring 2010) at USM. One of these is Donna Davis, the current chair of BEDS. Davis will be retiring after a long career at USM. Five CoB economists will be joining Davis in retirement on 30-June-2010. These are George Carter, Trellis Green, William Gunther, Mark Klinedinst and Edward Nissan. These five have agreed to retire in order to "save" the four mostly junior economists from the budget-cutting block at USM. Whether these agreed upon retirements will actually occur remains to be seen. Sources are speculating that the odds are 50-50 at the moment.

Economics will be leaving the CoB and joining the CoAL on 30-June-2010. It will mark the second academic unit to have moved from the CoB to the CoAL since the beginning of the Harold Doty administration (2003-07) of the CoB. The other is international development (economic development). Reports are that economics will combine with international development (economic development) for the 2010-11 academic year and beyond.

Athletics to Add to Budget Woes Again?

USM's dire budget situation has been the subject of numerous reports and editorials over the past several months here at USMNEWS.net. According to figures released by Mississippi IHL Commissioner Hank Bounds, the future looks much worse than the present for Mississippi's eight public institutions. As a result, a number of politicians, including MS Governor Haley Barbour, are proposing that some of MS' public universities be consolidated. Barbour's plan calls for Mississippi University for Women to be combined with Mississippi State University, and for the state's three historically black universities to be consolidated within (existing) Jackson State University.

One aspect of the present budget crisis that long-time readers will recall is that USM's athletics department recently saw its budget *supplemented* as a result of the current *budget cutting process*. This outcome disturbed many USM faculty, particularly those on the USM faculty senate. Sources say that one reason for the athletics department's financial problems (that necessitated additional support) was the football team's poor

showing in 2008. With the 28-Nov-09 loss to East Carolina, the Eagles have once again missed out on the Liberty Bowl and its financial prize. As a result, USM will once again be headed to a minor bowl game like the New Orleans Bowl. This could mean future budget support for sports like that of the recent past that raised concern in USM faculty circles.