

# CoB News, 30 May 2008

## Who Will Answer the Summer 2008 Preview Call?

Registration officials at USM have released the dates for the upcoming Summer 2008 Preview sessions. These are:

Thursday, June 5  
Tuesday, June 17  
Thursday, June 19  
Saturday, June 28  
Tuesday, July 1  
Tuesday, July 8  
Saturday, July 19

The question now is: which CoB faculty will show, and which will not? USMNEWS.NET sources have additional questions. Now that former CoB dean Harold Doty is teaching a full load, will he serve as host during any of the seven Preview sessions? What about *infamous* CoB service derelict, Edward Nissan, of the EFIB? Will EFIB favorite Akbar Marvasti help, or will Marvasti's duties be passed along to EFIB whipping boy, Trellis Green?

New CoB dean Lance Nail will be on board for the final three Preview sessions. Sources say that some CoB faculty will want to wait until then to show their service wares so that Nail might choose to reward them in some way at a later point during 2008-09.

## Myron Henry Blasts Mary Anderson's Bro

Reports of USM's push to outsource the Physical Plant continue to hound administration officials at USM. In a recent post to the *USM Forum -- to build trust, a team and a campus --Message Board*, former USM Provost Myron Henry publicly criticizes (see below) the plan and USM Chief Financial Officer Joe Morgan's support of it. Morgan is the brother of CoB assistant professor of accounting, Mary Morgan Anderson. Both are children of the "Morgan" in the CoB's *Morgan Distinguished Professorship in Accounting*, an honor currently held by accounting professor Roderick Posey of "more than 100" accounting publications *infamy*.

Myron Henry  
Posts: 1  
Date: 13 days ago  
Views: 297

Quote | Reply

Hi Valerie Wells:

Just one correction to your very good story. The committee I served on in spring 2006 was the university wide committee that reviewed all proposals that were in response to the RFP to outsource all Physical Plant services. Although this committee was not chaired by Joe Morgan, he was on it and in my judgment really "managed" the committee. Several people who reported through Joe Morgan were also on the committee. As Faculty Senate representative to the committee, I believe I was the lone faculty member on the committee. There were two formal votes in the last month of the committee's activities. The first was a 10-1 vote favoring negotiations with Aramark. (I was the lone no voter). The second vote was to recommend to the president that Aramark be the outside vendor to provide Physical Plant services. That vote resulted in a 6-5 margin for Aramark. This vote change was gratifying to me, especially considering the number of committee members who reported through Joe Morgan or who were administrators subject to pressure from the Thames Administration. The Board of Trustees ultimately elected to defer action on contracting Aramark to provide physical plant services at USM.

As for as your interview with Joe Morgan, several things come to mind. First, an Aramark proposal will likely include considerable up front money for immediate "improvements." So my question would be, how could current USM physical plant managers be expected to come up with a great deal of front end resources in their "proposal?" These employees just cannot compete with an Aramark type, which can essentially "buy" the contract with big time, short term, infusions of money into the university.

In exchange for large infusions of cash, an outside vendor such as Aramark would probably request a long-term contract with automatic annual increases. The university would have to honor the contract even in years when the university budget is reduced by the state or is flat (which happens too regularly in MS). Another point is that an outsourcing contract probably would be for much more than just the salaries of ten or so management personnel. It would no doubt involve a great deal of money for operations and maintenance (non-personnel costs). In all of this, one must remember that an outside vendor such as Aramark is a for profit company, and front end infusions of cash and other "incentives" from an outside vendor are figured into their longer term, for profit scenario.

Finally, whenever one announces to members of the USM family that proposals are being sought to outsource what they do, morale sinks fast. No doubt that is the case here. That is one reason why in my judgment there ought to have been a broad based committee reviewing the pros and cons of even issuing an RFP. Instead, apparently Aramark was invited by Joe Morgan to make a presentation to the few. And in 2006, the issuance of a major RFP was not preceded by a committee study either. Quoting that famous philosopher Yogi Berra (a former Yankee baseball catcher), its déjà vu all over again. Finally, you quote Joe Morgan as having stated that "... outside management of physical plant should not be called outsourcing." Many of us mostly follow the age old principle that if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, then it is a duck. This duck IS outsourcing. Thanks for your interest in this important matter.

Myron Henry

Although Anderson might object to having her name linked to all of the misguided views of her brother, sources tell USMNEWS.NET that she (Anderson) is certainly not shy about asking her brother (and his position) to overturn various CoB administrative decisions that adversely affect her and/or her close associates.

## Beans Spilled in B'ham on Nail's Appointment in CoB

In a [16-May-2008 article](#) in the *Birmingham Business Journal* by Lauren Cooper, the Birmingham business community learned that Lance Nail, chairman of UAB's department of finance, economics and quantitative methods, "has taken the top spot" in USM's b-school beginning 1-July-2008. According to Cooper, Nail served as chairman at UAB for five years, and he was on the faculty there for more than 10 years.