

Dear USMNews.net:

On April 1, 2009, I, along with other College of Business faculty members, received an email from Sonia Gaines Little admonishing us for daring to stop by to talk to Lance Nail without a prior appointment. I am convinced that this was an April Fool's Day prank gone awry. Given the dean's office's history of disseminating so-called humorous emails that were really in poor taste (e.g. Doty's email regarding a stock market drop and professors jumping out of JGH windows), this is not outside the realm of possibility.

<Name Withheld>

Dear USM news,

The whole Sonia Gaines-Littles episode boggles the mind. Nothing it says about Gaines-Littles is good. Let's first assume she wrote and sent the e-mail without being asked to do so, as some are saying she did. What good does that say about her? Nothing; in fact, this is obviously the worst-case scenario as far as Gaines-Littles' character is concerned. If, however, Lance Nail asked her to draft something to the same effect and send it out, then not only did she write the condescending missive, she sent it out to all CoB faculty and staff. Although instructed to convey the message, drafting it in her own words and then delivering it to CoB faculty condemns her almost as badly as scenario one above does. Finally, let's assume Nail drafted it and asked her to send it out for him, as most of the people I've talked to believed happened. That scenario exonerates Gaines-Littles on the main counts above, but it also indicts her character as one lacking the fortitude to stand up to Nail and refuse to send it out on the grounds that it is unbecoming of a staffer to address faculty in such a way.

Of course a similar iterative process condemns dean Lance Nail, only in reverse. Even in the "Gaines-Littles went off the rails" scenario (#1 above), Nail has yet to apologize on behalf of "his office." His character is lacking, all that remains to be determined is "how much."

Thanks for listening.

*name withheld by request*