

Deck the Hall Tree

A Guest Editorial by **Victoria Tyler**

New CoB accounting director, Kirby E. “Skip” Hughes, joined the CoB this year from Louisiana State University. When he arrived in Hattiesburg from LSU’s *E.J. Ourso College of Business*, he brought several “key initiatives” with him. These have only recently been widely distributed, and one of the prominent ones is “a dress code of sorts.” As Hughes recently explained to USM public relations staff, “[o]ne of the first things I noticed was all the baseball caps being worn in class.” Noting that baseball caps do not reflect a professional image, Hughes moved to ban them during class. Though most of you are probably *underwhelmed* at this key piece of vision, others may see this as a bold move. Hughes, it seems, does also, as evidenced by his decision to pilot the program in his classes only. With all of the students that CoB administrators usually teach, something tells me not that many caps will visit the hall tree any time soon.

How much is Hughes being paid? That question may be even more relevant than before, given the revelation of this key piece of Hughes’ master plan to lift the CoB’s accounting division out of the doldrums. Combined with other pieces of information that are coming out, one really has to wonder now. What other pieces of info, you ask? Well, let me paraphrase Hughes on/regarding CoB accounting professor Roderick Posey: *Rod is doing a fantastic job at doing his job.* That little gem comes via the new additions to USMNEWS.net’s audio/video library archives that have been the hot little topic here in recent weeks. I guess many CoBers would need to see just what CoB administrators believe is Posey’s job description before jumping in with their own opinion of Hughes’ statement. For most faculty, that descriptions entails teaching and research. For Posey, it must be something else . . . that is, if he’s really doing a good job at his job.

It’s common knowledge that the CoB’s AACSB Peer Review Team will be visiting again in less than two years. Word is already getting out that accounting may again be in deep trouble. If Hughes is the rescue team, something smells. Unless the PRT will be coming into JAG to count hanging baseball caps, and not *real* research and *quality* instruction, accounting’s second straight 6th Year AACSB Review may be just over the horizon. And this time Alvin Williams won’t be around the clean up the mess.