

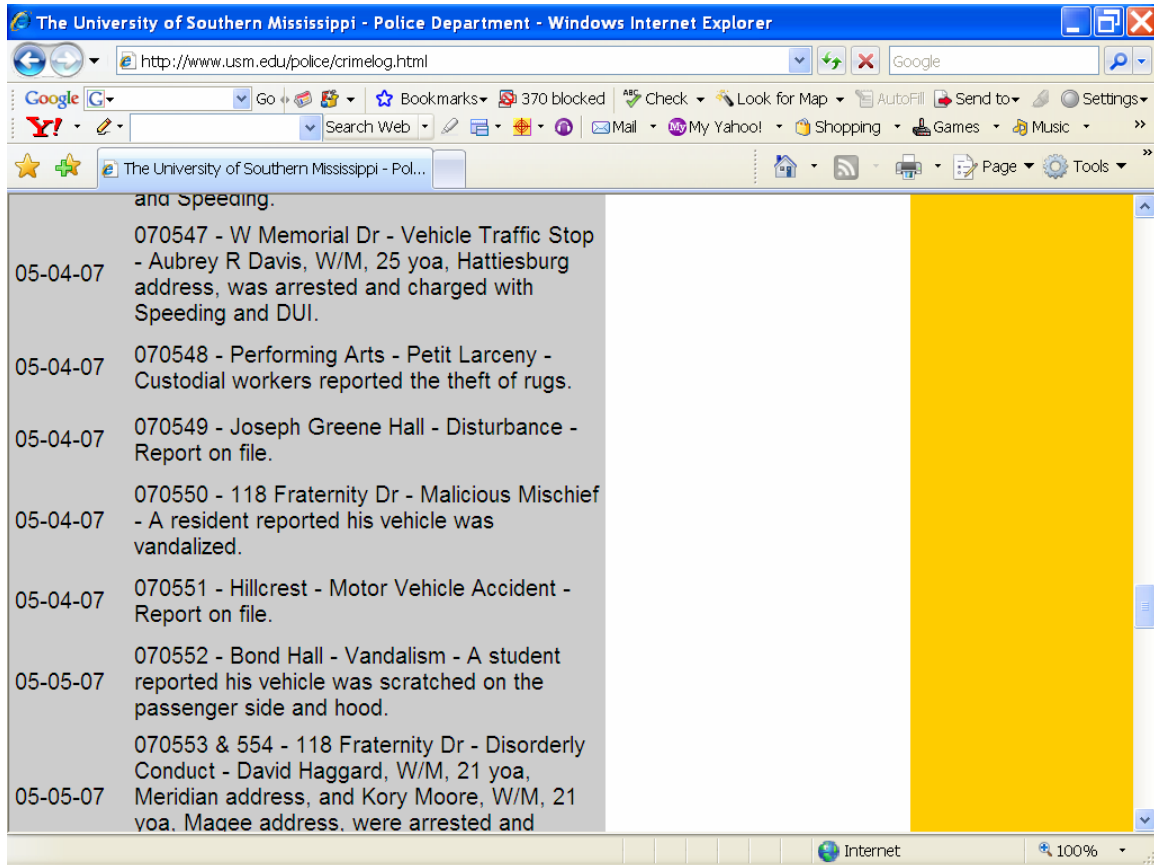
“Disturbance”

The State of USM’s College of Business, May-07

It’s no secret to readers of USMNEWS.NET that USM’s College of Business is an organization that unraveling more and more with each passing day. The best example of how far the CoB has sunk in the academic world is the fact that the USM Police Department had to be called to “break up” the CoB’s end-of-year faculty meeting on 4-May-07, a meeting that was presided over by new Interim Dean Alvin Williams and whose program concluded with an *unannounced* proclamation/statement against www.usmnews.net that was read to the assembled group by *newly-hired assistant* professor of economics Sami Dakhliia.

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The framed numerical string above says it all. That string represents the number assigned by the Southern Miss UPD to the official incident report describing to calamity that was the final portion of the faculty meeting. For a look at the UPD’s official title of the incident, see the insert below, taken from the UPD’s crime log (on the web):



As the insert above indicates, the UPD responded to a “Disturbance” in Joseph Greene Hall, the home of USM’s College of Business, on 05-04-07. Of course, that entry refers to the faculty meeting described above. The entry also notes: “Report on file.”

The incident referred to on the USMPD website is one primarily centering around the tirade that former CoB Associate Dean Farhang Niroomand flew into after the meeting adjourned. Sources have stated that Niroomand was seen screaming at, and waving a handful of papers in the face of, USMNEWS.NET editor Marc DePree (in the hallway of JGH’s 3rd floor). According to sources, after a few seconds of shouting, Niroomand had to be pulled (by a small group of faculty) from the hallway and into JGH 309, the EFIB Department’s administrative suite.

As some of our sources point out, the scene described above was similar to the one wherein Niroomand had to be restrained by former CoB Dean D. Harold Doty and EFIB Chair George Carter after flying into a verbal tirade that was directed at an EFIB professor. This tirade came at the conclusion of a 2006 meeting called by Niroomand and Doty to discuss that faculty member’s outspoken criticism of CoB administration. Not only that, one source tells reporters at USMNEWS.NET that Niroomand became embroiled in a spat with a retired EFIB professor that so overcame him that he visited her home and shouted at her from her porch. Just a few seconds into the verbal tirade, sources indicate that she told him to vacate her property or answer to the hamlet’s police department, a demand to which Niroomand quickly ceded.

The CoB’s “Continuing Review” (probation) visit by the AACSB is only seven months (or so) away now. Things are going so badly in USM’s CoB right now that the AACSB’s own reputation will be on the line when it visits Hattiesburg again in February of 2008. It’s hard to imagine that the organization has seen a business school in such disarray, on the verge of collapse, as is the CoB.