

". . . Don't Make 'Em Like They Used To"

An Editorial on Nail's New \$1 Million Summer Research Program

New CoB dean Lance Nail is to be applauded for convincing the Martha Saunders administration to provide \$1 million in summer research support (for the CoB) over the next three years. This support, and Nail's leadership, will go a long way toward avoiding the AACSB accreditation troubles that seemed to define the CoB under former dean Harold Doty. The plan will also get the CoB's faculty moving back toward the quality standard set during the Tyrone Black administration, when students and alumni of USM's business school were so proud to be associated with an organization that was a vibrant place to study and learn.

Though Nail's plan, and Saunders' support of it, deserves our applause, in another sense it is a real shame that Mississippi taxpayers are now on the hook for an *additional* \$1 million just to get the CoB's current faculty to do what *they are supposed to be doing* anyway -- with or without any level of summer research support. With the exception of just a few, gone are the days of individuals who consider themselves to be serious people, and who are self-starters who take pride in the accomplishments of themselves and others. Gone are the Brian Gregorys, the Johye Hwangs, the Joy Kozars, the Melody Los, the Franklin Mixons, the Talai Osmonbekovs, the Tanya Ruetzlers, the Sean Salters, the Charles Sawyers, the Linghui Tangs, the Len Trevinos, and the Sunny Wongs. Now, the CoB is left with their replacements -- individuals who are paid much more than these former CoBers were paid, and who are now withholding their research output for an additional \$1 million ransom. When that research output finally does come, assuming it ever does, it will not likely be anywhere near the quality of what the CoB was previously getting, sans the \$1 million, from these former CoBers.

As the old saying goes, they don't make 'em like they used to. In this case that means that the Kuo Lane Chens, the John Clarks, the Sami Dakhlias, the John Lamberts, the Akbar Marvastis, and so many other current CoBers have nothing on those included in the list above. No, the CoB was lucky to have those former faculty listed above, and that opinion will only become more and more prevalent as the years pass on. As far as current CoBers cut from similar molds, there are a few. However, if history is any indication, these faculty -- the Marc DePrees, the Tom Lindleys, the Sharon Toppings, and a few others -- will be left out of the loop. If that happens, as it likely will if any of the remaining old CoB administrators have a say in the matter, it will be two steps forward yet two steps backward when it comes to AACSB accreditation 2012. Leaving these faculty out of the loop is an option that the CoB cannot afford.