

## *FLOATING SCENARIOS*

A number of CoB faculty termination scenarios are being brought to USMNEWS.net's attention. From the USM administration and media reports, we know that three CoB faculty have been terminated as a result of the FY2011 budget cut of \$15 million. Each scenario discussed below includes Kuo Lane Chen, a tenured associate professor of management information systems. Chen's inclusion seems logical, given that reports show that the CoB's MIS program has been axed as a part of the recently-released budget response.

### Scenario 1: Kuo Lane Chen, Gallayanee Yaoyuneyong, and Erin Drake-Bridges

Again, the logic in this scenario is Chen, given the termination of MIS. However, neither Yaoyuneyong nor Drake-Bridges is affiliated with MIS -- they are both untenured assistant professors of fashion merchandising. None of the reporting heretofore has included FM among the list of closed or consolidated academic programs.

### Scenario 2: Kuo Lane Chen, Erin Drake-Bridges, and James Magruder

This scenario makes sense in that Magruder is, like Chen, a tenured associate professor of MIS. Again, however, Drake-Bridges is included, and she comes from a program (FM) not listed in media reports as being eliminated. It is also puzzling that USM administrators would choose to cut Drake-Bridges, while leaving Yaoyuneyong on board. One would think that termination of one would not take place without termination of the other.

### Scenario 3: Kuo Lane Chen, James Magruder, and Chang-Tseh Hsieh

Each of these three belongs to MIS, so this configuration makes most sense from the program elimination angle. However, Hsieh is widely known as a political operator, so seeing his name on the list is a bit surprising. He's also a tenured full professor who currently holds one of only three University Distinguished Professorships. Given that USM president Martha Saunders named the three award recipients relatively recently, it is puzzling to consider Hsieh among those cut.

There is some method to each of the three configurations above. There is also at least a little madness in each one. Of course, it is possible that each is off a bit, and something ultimately emerges that makes more sense. Only time will tell.