

Faculty Senate Watch

CoB Dean wants New Business Building Relocated

REPORT TO USM FACULTY SENATE GENERATES CONCERNS

A [recent USMNEWS.net report](#) discussed how the CoB's new business building has been designed and planned for a location across the street from the Liberal Arts Building, as shown within the gold highlighted area in the insert below. This location is part of what the master campus facility planning committee refers to as the *academic core* of the USM-H campus, given the physical locations of the CoB, the CoAL, and the other USM colleges. This core is (roughly) outlined below in black (though there are some un-captured portions to the right of the outlined area).



Though the plan discussed above seems to make sense, the USM faculty senate's representative on the USM master campus facility planning committee reported to the faculty senate on 4-June-2010 that CoB dean Lance Nail has requested that the new CoB facility, set to begin construction in the near future, be located on the eastern portion of the campus (an approximate location is indicated by the red star above). Using the insert above, Nail's request places the new building to the left of the football stadium, near the Trent Lott Center for Excellence in Economic Development and Entrepreneurship, which is shown below.



The faculty senate's representative on the MCFPC pointed out that the MCFPC met in May-2010 to discuss the proposed change involving the CoB building, which was brought to that meeting by CoB dean Lance Nail. The faculty senate representative noted that the MCFPC had some concerns, the first being that seven of the 14 classrooms scheduled to be part of the facility were general purpose rooms, meaning that non-CoB students could face some difficulties getting to and from their classes in a timely fashion. A second concern is that the move will take the CoB out of the *academic core* portion of the campus.

Sources tell USMNEWS.net that other concerns could easily be raised. One of these involves the modest design of the new CoB facility. This design will be overpowered physically by the Trent Lott Center shown above, which was designed to resemble federal buildings in Washington, D.C. (Symbolically, this would also suggest that "economic development" at USM sits above "business" on the institution's priorities list.) Another concern is that, as Hattiesburg continues to grow westward, eastern portions of the USM campus are beginning to sit in declining areas and neighborhoods. The women's soccer and softball complexes are already located in declining areas, and the next line of eastern part of campus includes the McCarty student housing complex and Nail's proposed location for the new CoB facility. The proposed location also impacts CoB faculty, in that they will likely need to use west 4th street entrances to campus, which will soon be affected by the City of Hattiesburg's "traffic calming" [plan](#) that will cut the street down to one lane. Additionally, CoB students may be coaxed by the new location to cross Highway 49 to grab lunch and/or other meals throughout the day. Many believe this particular crossing will make attempts to cross Hardy Street look safe by comparison.

As indicated to the faculty senate, Nail's request has not yet been approved. As more details arise, USMNEWS.net will report on them.