

GH Chatter

Could CoB dean Lance Nail be headed *back to* Birmingham? Some very juicy chatter from the past 48 hours says it's possible. In what capacity? New dean of the b-school at Samford University. SU is a Tier 2 university – easily a major step up for Nail, given USM's Tier 4 status at the moment. A recent net search suggests that this move would not happen until after the 2010-11 academic year, so don't expect any major announcement just yet.

It seems the CoB is getting the disapproving glance from all quarters these days. The hiring of Skip Hughes and Michael Dugan in accounting, at what most believe is easily the better part of \$0.5 million per year, has much of the non-CoB portion of USM fuming. Add to that the local community's surging distaste of USM faculty, thanks in part to Mark Klinedinst's crusade against USM athletics (sacred cow?), and things aren't going the CoB's (or USM's) way.

In terms of human resources, the CoB is about as young and mobile as it has been in recent memory. How many faculty flights will occur between now, the end of 2009-10, and the end of next year, 2010-11? Though only time will tell, it has been a popular topic for chatter of late.

As one might imagine, the USM Research Foundation scandal is a hot topic for chatter. Stories about what happened are all over the board. It does seem certain that the situation is serious, whatever it entails.

GH Chatter is a series at USMNEWS that provides a glimpse at what CoB students, and sometimes CoB faculty, are discussing throughout the corridors of Joseph Greene Hall and beyond.