

GH Chatter

People are beginning to wonder aloud how CoB dean Lance Nail's plan to hire six new department chairs (as part of the CoB reorganization) is going to work out. The state's (and nation's) dire economic predicament was the most common suspect in late fall 2008 conversations when it comes to stumbling blocks facing the six hiring processes. Now, internal sabotage is being talked about as the biggest threat to Nail's ambitions. Reports are circulating that accounting is now in "botch it up" mode after having their wishes with regard to the accounting chair hire brushed aside by the Nail administration.

There has been some talk about putting parts of the b-school at USM in the old Hattiesburg High School complex near downtown Hattiesburg. Long-held plans have slated the USM art department for the facility, which makes sense given the arts influence downtown. Word is that there is also interest in developing downtown's economic development presence, possibly because Betsy Rowell, who heads the Hattiesburg Downtown Association, once ran the old Business Assistance Center (BAC) at USM. This angle does seem to give this story at least a little credence. Who knows? If anything, it sounds like another merger between ECO and ECODEV might be on the table, and for downtown Hattiesburg this time.

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.