

GH Chatter

Word around JGH and other parts of campus is that there is growing hostility concerning the hiring of new, expensive faculty in ACC. This hostility has, of course, made its way to the new APG, the group of faculty, staff and administrators that is working closely with USM officials to cut \$15-\$20 million out of the budget. New ACC director Skip Hughes is closely linked to these hiring decisions, meaning that his name is not well-received in many quarters these days. One of the things non-ACC CoB faculty need to start considering is what Hughes' hiring will mean for them when budget cuts come around. Some are saying that the CoB will be a target thanks to Hughes, and that ACC can't be hit because such a move would be seen as retaliatory. That suggests that MKT, MGT or other areas may feel the pain.

Current CoB faculty may see the last of Donna Davis well before 30-June-10, the official retirement day. This is not a new phenomenon – retiring faculty disappearing in their final weeks. Like it or not, it's certainly not the same thing as the four month vacation that Harold Doty and Farhang Niroomand got when they turned in their surprise “resignations” (as dean and associate dean, respectively) back in April-07. At least Davis will be burning time earned for service, not for dereliction of duty, for which many believe Doty and Niroomand were essentially rewarded.

There has been some talk about Trellis Green (ECO) getting a behind-the-scenes “phased retirement” deal that will keep him around a bit longer. If accurate, that could put Green in the position of possibly securing support to keep his job permanently, now that Sami Dakhliia is following Deniz Gevrek out of Hattiesburg. The possibilities here will likely hinge on Mark Klinedinst's (ECO) efforts to keep his own job after 2009-10. It will be interesting to see if either one turns out to be the sort of “sacred cow” that Klinedinst has been speaking out against around campus.

Speaking of budget cuts, some are chattering about upcoming cuts in CoB advising (room 110). People are also talking about two secretaries being let go. Word is also going around about Chang-Tseh Hsieh hinting that a departure may be in the near future for him. Such a move might actually release some pressure in information systems. Kuo Lane Chen could follow Hsieh out, making some room to possibly keep Dale Lunsford. Lunsford must be giddy about this chatter.

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.