

GH Chatter

If the whispers around the Southern Miss campus are correct, the new version of an economics area in Arts and Letters is going to last a very short period of time. Half of those intended to move across the street this summer have departed. Positions offered to some of the “retirees” (read: malcontents forced out) have been refused. While some of the “retiree” group surely can retire, others cannot, so it is not far-fetched to assume they know or are strongly suspicious of the future here for economists. Realistically, dean Denise von Herrmann would be foolish not to make these newly arriving positions a first cut for next year’s impending major cuts in her college. Some are now saying that the utter shame and total waste of time and resources on this entire farce falls on provost Robert Lyman and president Martha Saunders for not following through on the complete elimination of this area after accepting CoB dean Lance Nail’s recommendation for it.

At the end of year two of the Lance Nail administration, there is some talk that little beyond the typical reorganization has been done in the CoB. Of course, there is the Honors House, but that is easily offset by the loss of economics. Surely the AACSB will have some pointed questions in 2012, the next time the CoB is up for reaccreditation. Long-time readers are aware that the last one, in 2007, didn’t go so well. The CoB got a 6th Year Review recommendation under the old Harold Doty-Farhang Niroomand administration. That problem got cleaned up by the interim Alvin Williams administration in late 2007/early 2008. As with Doty in 2007, Nail will be making his first attempt at AACSB certification in 2012.

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.