

How to Improve the CoB in 2009

Here are some ways to improve the College of Business (CoB) at USM this year without having to spend much money.

1. Name a new director for the School of Accountancy that is not someone the current Accounting faculty desire. There is no other way to change what is there. Once this occurs, Jim Henderson will not be the only retirement.
2. Go through with the reorganization after IHL approval. Name at least half of the new chair positions from current faculty members. Given the current and future doubt concerning available dollars, this should allow for funds to hire some new outside administrators.
3. Continue to stress and reward academic publications. As the time for annual evaluations approaches, use that opportunity to make the point. It is more easily made in a non-raise year.
4. Name Donna Davis as Chair of the new Business, Economics, and Decision Sciences Department (BEDS). That allows her to make necessary changes in both MIS and Economics for Dean Lance Nail's vision and keeps any economist from being an administrator in the CoB.
5. Return George Carter to faculty status on July 1st as promised.
6. Minimize all CoB roles for Carter, Harold Doty, and Farhang Niroomand.
7. Move the BBER to the Coast, make the Associate Director the Director, and return Bill Gunther to full-time teaching status.
8. Replace Linda Vance with Patrick Browning – Browning deserves a promotion and raise and Vance deserves to not be employed in the CoB.
9. Replace the seldom utilized "Center for Financial Services" with a classroom, a small interactive or lab-type classroom, or a couple of new offices. This will stop a waste of resources at several levels.
10. Close the MBA program, change it radically to a narrowly-focused program, or move it to the Coast as a PMBA program with a limit of 25 students each year for a maximum of 50 or 75 students (depending on a 2 or 3 year program).

These suggestions, if used, will have positive results for the CoB. Most of these suggestions would cost nothing or only a negligible amount; some will save money. We look forward to seeing which of these, if any, Dean Nail will implement.