

It Would Have Been Easy

A Brief History of the Fall of the CoB's International Business Unit

Based on documents housed in the USMNEWS.net library, it would have been very easy for the CoB to have maintained the stellar international business unit that existed at the turn of the 21st century and shortly thereafter. The problem, however, emerged with the 2003 hiring (by former USM president Shelby Thames) of Harold Doty as the CoB's fourth permanent dean. During Doty's 2003-07 tenure as CoB dean, he ignored repeated requests to move international business out of the economics and finance department and into the management department. Clearly, IB's natural home is with management, if not situated as a stand-alone department. Doty's academic area is management. The obvious disconnect boggles the minds of sources who are looking back on this chapter in CoB history. It was not to be, as Doty would deny IB its hall pass to move from one CoB department to the other.

Fast forward to 2008, and the current Martha Saunders administration's hiring of current CoB dean Lance Nail. One of Nail's first actions as dean was to separate IB from economics and finance, and join it with management. Along with this move came a revamping of the IB curriculum, another move that was necessitated by academic market realities. The problem for Nail, however, was that the CoB's top IB scholars had long since departed USM and Hattiesburg – Len Trevino to Washington State University, and Linghui Tang to the College of New Jersey. Instead of these faculty, Nail was, and still is, saddled to assistant professor of IB John Lambert, Doty's replacement for previous losses in IB. The inadequacies of Lambert's scholarship portfolio are well documented here at USMNEWS.net. What the CoB lost with Trevino and Tang is more adequately documented below, with their collective haul of *unique* journal publications. The insert below also boggles the mind.





