

# It's Looking like Laatsch

## *Dean Lance Nail's New CoB Now Taking Shape*

The recent news that CoB dean Lance Nail has selected Leisa Flynn, a professor of marketing at Florida State University, to chair the CoB's new department of marketing and fashion merchandising, is creating a stir around the JAG. That stir is only compounded by even newer reports that FIN's Francis Laatsch will be reporting to Nail on 1-July-09 as the chair of the new department of finance, real estate and legal studies. Laatsch came to the CoB at the beginning of 2008-09 from Bowling Green State University. His imminent selection as FINRELS chair puts [another check mark](#) in the "got it right" column for reporters and editorialists at USMNEWS.net.

Table 1  
Administrators in Lance Nail's New CoB

Department	Chair	Source of Chair
Accounting	Kirby Hughes	Louisiana State University
Business Economics & Decision Sciences	Donna Davis	inside hire
Finance, Real Estate & Legal Studies	Francis Laatsch	inside hire
Management and International Business	David Duhon	inside hire
Marketing and Fashion Merchandising	Leisa Flynn	Florida State University
Tourism Management	Catherine Price	inside hire

In all, four of the six new departments in Nail's new CoB configuration will be chaired by inside hires (see Table 1 above). That represents a failure rate of 66.7% on the six national searches (for chairs) that began back in the summer of 2008. This is surely a setback for the new Nail administration. On the brighter side, there are two new hires, and these came from LSU and FSU, both of which are major U.S. institutions of higher education. Thus, when it comes to "raiding" other places for talent, Nail does exhibit at least some ability, unlike his predecessor, Harold Doty. Sources say that Doty's idea of a talent "raid" was getting former SAIS director Steven Jackson from Loyola University. As reported recently by USMNEWS.net, Doty is set to become the new business dean at the University of Texas – Tyler on 11-May-09.

Finally, sources point out that with the lack of success on the academic job market during the 2008-09 season, year 2 (2009-10) of the Nail administration will be a critical one for the new dean. AACSB accreditation is inching forward (it's back in 2012), the CoB's human resource drain continues strong, and the organization appears to be sinking in the sort of malaise that seems difficult to shake off.