

All Joe

Just about everyone in USM's b-school knows that CoB dean Lance Nail is a difficult man to find. That is due to the fact that he is usually jaunting around the southeast, seeking the next impossible-to-get donation from so-called CoB supporters (in the private sector). While he may not have garnered any high-profile donations, Nail must be doing something right. A new College of Business facility is *now* the #2 priority over in facilities planning, right after the construction of a multi-level parking deck. This news, which was presented at the 5-June-09 Faculty Senate meeting, must have some veracity, given the disapproving sigh heard in the meeting room that day. Another bit of news, also revealed at the 5-June-09 Faculty Senate meeting, is that the USM administration is planning for a 4.5% budget cut for next year. The budget cut news, told by USM president Martha Saunders, was also not well-received by the senators in attendance at the 5-June-09 meeting. In fact, when asked if the 4.5% cut had already been made, Saunders, in full-on deflection mode, told those assembled that the USM deans had done it already. This news is certain to be ill-received by CoB faculty, especially given Nail's aforementioned absences. What CoB faculty know is that, for all intents and purposes, associate CoB dean Joseph Peyrefitte is now running the CoB. And that idea is a bit unsettling to some. Since this set-up was arranged the CoB has faced the Kenneth Zantow fiasco, a number of failed national searches for department chairs, and various other issues one would expect from a college run by an unqualified executive. What issues will emerge from the forthcoming budget cuts remains to be seen. There is now little doubt that the unwritten outside dean/inside dean model being supported by Saunders et al. is destined for failure. Unfortunately, the CoB is the main (only real) test tube for the experiment, and with AACSB re-affirmation looming again, the timing couldn't be any worse.