

## Just How Bad is the CoB's New Dean Applicant Pool?

Little has been said publicly about the 2007-08 search for a new Dean of USM's College of Business until now. However, with the release of the e-mail inserted below, we now have some indication that the search process may be sputtering. The e-mail below was sent to all CoB faculty by Peter Fos, Dean of USM's College of Health and Chairman of the CoB's Dean Search Committee.

**Date:** Mon, 26 Nov 2007  
**From:** [Sonia Gaines-Littles <sonia.gainesslittles@usm.edu>](mailto:sonia.gainesslittles@usm.edu)  
**To:** [cob-facstaff@usm.edu](mailto:cob-facstaff@usm.edu)  
**Subject:** [Cob-facstaff] Dean Search  
College of Business Faculty,

I wanted to give you a brief update of the Dean search and ask you for your assistance. As of this writing, several well-qualified candidates have applied. The pool seems strong, but I want to make sure that all possible candidates are aware of the search. The search committee will begin reviewing applications soon after the first of the year. The ad states that we will receive applications until the position is filled, but consideration will begin after December 15, 2007. The committee needs your assistance in contacting people that you know who may be interested or who may of others who may be interested, to ensure the strongest possible pool of applicants.

I quote from the ad, "The search committee will begin accepting applications and nominations immediately and will begin reviewing applications Dec. 15, 2007 and continue until the position is filled. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, complete curriculum vita and contact information for at least five references.

Send letter of nomination or application materials to Chair , Search Committee for the Dean of College of Business, c/o Office of the Provost, The University of Southern Mississippi, 118 College Drive # 5002, Hattiesburg MS 39406-0001."

Please forward the ad information to those who may have an interest in applying for the Dean's position.

Thank you.

Peter Fos

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According to Fos, "several well qualified candidates have applied" for the CoB's Dean opening, and the "[candidate] pool seems strong." If this is so, why the e-mail asking CoB faculty to scour the globe to make sure "all possible candidates are aware of the search?" Here we are, late November/early December 2007, and Fos is seeking word-of-mouth efforts, instead of print/online advertising, to strengthen the CoB's applicant pool.

Something fishy is going on. You can smell it in the air.