

LAATSCH LIKELY TO CHAIR FINRELS

More and More CoB Chairs Falling to Internal Candidates

The recent news that decision sciences' Donna Davis will be chairing the CoB's new department of business economics and decision sciences has USMNEWS.net sources stating that associate professor of finance Francis Laatsch will likely be taking over the new department of finance, real estate and legal studies. Davis' rise to administration (once again) now looks like more than simply a farewell tour through CoB administration for her. It is becoming clearer, at least to some, that LSU's Kirby E. "Skip" Hughes, who was recently hired to direct the CoB's new school of accounting, will be the *only* "outsider" hired during CoB dean Lance Nail's campaign to staff the top position in six new departments.

The decision by Drexel University's Jacqueline Garner to turn down Nail's offer to chair the new FINRELS effectively doomed that corner's chances to have an outside chair. Once Garner removed her name from consideration, it became clear, at least to USMNEWS.net sources, that Laatsch will likely be assuming the FINRELS reins come 1-July-09. Long-time readers will recall that Laatsch joined the CoB in 2008-09, after having spent a lengthy period on the faculty at Bowling Green State University. As a relatively new hire, Laatsch does not have a history in CoB politics, as does Davis. It still remains an open question, however, as to whether or not Laatsch will succumb to political pressures. His research record, though fair overall, has not been great in more recent years. That is usually, according to sources, the "open door" that CoB politicians use to gain indirect access to the wheels of government in USM's business college.